

The Element

August 2024



SENATOR TILLIS VISITS KINGS MOUNTAIN ▶

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. visited the Kings Mountain site as part of a statewide tour during Congress' summer recess. While onsite, he discussed the importance of lithium to U.S. national security and the need for a resilient supply chain.



SAFETY AT ALBEMARLE ▶

Read why Albemarle's safety record is best in class and how safety, specialized training and hazard mitigation is being incorporated into the potential Kings Mountain Mine.



PERMITTING UPDATE ▶

After two and a half years of collecting data to support permit applications, Albemarle has begun submitting some of the permits necessary to redevelop the Kings Mountain Mine. Over the next six to 18 months, Albemarle will submit about 30 permits.

Upcoming Events *Calendar* ▶

CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR



Albemarle Kings Mountain is the presenting sponsor for the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland County Fair. The fair runs **September 26 to October 6** at the Cleveland County Fair Grounds in Shelby, NC. Be sure to stop by the Albemarle booth and say hi!



LIBERTY MOUNTAIN REVOLUTIONARY DRAMA

Albemarle is honored to be one of the presenting sponsors of [Liberty Mountain](#), a theatrical production that tells the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain live on stage at the Joy Theater. This battle not only turned the tide of the Revolutionary War in 1780, it also played a role in shaping our nation. The show features state-of-the-art projection technology, live music, epic battle scenes and other special effects that bring the story of the founding of our nation to life in an immersive and thrilling experience. Albemarle is also excited to provide a golden ticket to every fourth-grade student and accompanying adult in Cleveland, Gaston and Cherokee, SC counties. The production will run from **September 13 through October 6**.

[Visit the Albemarle Kings Mountain website](#) ▶

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U.S. Senator Thom Tillis *Visits Kings Mountain*

Leaders discussed the importance of lithium to U.S. national security and the need for a resilient domestic supply chain

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. recently visited the Kings Mountain site as part of a statewide tour during Congress' summer recess. In addition to getting a firsthand view of the entire lithium ecosystem that the Kings Mountain site affords, Sen. Tillis met with Albemarle's Energy Storage President, Eric Norris, Chief Technology Officer, Glen Merfeld and Senior Mining Director, Matt Hastings.

The minerals sector is a priority for the senator, especially given North Carolina's large role in upstream and midstream portions of the lithium supply chain. Sen. Tillis is a cosponsor of the recently introduced [Global Strategy for Securing Critical Minerals Act](#). He was also one of 19 Republican senators to vote in favor of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the historic investment undertaken by the U.S. government that provided the funds for the \$150 million Department of Energy [grant awarded to the Kings Mountain Mine project in 2022](#).

The tour included a visit to the Kings Mountain Mine pit and the site's research and development dry room to view some of the work being conducted with advanced lithium metals.



"Albemarle's investment in Kings Mountain represents a commitment not only to North Carolina, but to securing the United States' leadership in critical mineral production," said Sen. Tillis.

“ North Carolina, with Albemarle's cutting-edge mining facility, will play a major role in meeting the growing global demand for critical minerals, and I look forward to seeing their continued expansion and growth in our state. ”

—SEN. THOM TILLIS



Albemarle thanks Sen. Tillis for his support in building a secure supply chain for critical minerals. We continue to work alongside government leaders at all our locations to educate them and advocate for our work to build a more resilient world.

Safety is the Top Priority *for Albemarle*

As the company continues to work to potentially redevelop the Kings Mountain Mine, Albemarle prioritizes safety in our design, planning and overall approach to work to mitigate potential hazards in a manner similar to how hazards are mitigated for the existing facilities at Kings Mountain. As a result, our safety record—both in environmental and occupational aspects—is considered best in class.

Specialized training programs tailored for mining employees are being created to equip them with the necessary skills to carry out their tasks safely, efficiently

and consistently. Although this mining-specific program is currently under development, the program is planned to be fully established and implemented before mining operations begin at the proposed Kings Mountain Mine.

Numerous protective measures are already in use and are planned to continue once mining operations commence. At present, around-the-clock security personnel actively patrol all Albemarle properties, boundaries and assets. A network of surveillance cameras and other advanced security technologies also are used for the safety of our people and facilities.



At Albemarle, safety is a top priority *for our employees, the environment and the surrounding areas.*



Q&A with Ron Lindsey, Albemarle's Mine Safety Manager

Ron Lindsey, Albemarle's mine safety manager, has worked in mining for over three decades. "Mining isn't dangerous—it's hazardous," Lindsey said. "We can manage the hazards. What makes it dangerous is if we don't follow the rules." During a recent interview with Ron, he was able to share insights on the importance of safety at Albemarle and the precautions employees are taking to be safe at work.

Q: When it comes to safety, what makes Albemarle best in class?

Lindsey: Albemarle has a commitment to safety from the top down. Our leaders provide employees and contractors with tools, training, policies and site-specific guidance to keep us safe at every site. The commitment to safety from corporate is evident in everything we do, from starting every meeting with a safety share moment to conducting internal safety audits at all our sites, which result in corrective actions aimed to help us become even safer!

Q: Can you give a glimpse of Albemarle's safety record?

Lindsey: We started tracking recordable safety incidents and injuries at the Kings Mountain Mine site on July 1, 2022. Since this time, we are proud to share that we haven't had one recordable injury.

“ Just because something has worked for 20 years doesn't mean it's still the best way to do it. We never get complacent with safety. ”

—RON LINDSEY



Q: Can you explain some of the safety procedures Albemarle has in place at Kings Mountain?

Lindsey: Permit to Work: Before any task begins, a work permit detailing the scope of work and identifying any associated hazards must be completed, signed by everyone working on the task and submitted. There are special instructions and permissions associated with certain situations, such as confined space, working at height and hot work.

Each permit is valid for only one shift. At the start of each working day, the permitting process starts again. This rigorous requirement helps to make sure employees don't become complacent with repetitive tasks. It also allows everyone to review all hazards accordingly and to make sure the scope is the same each time. Our permit to work system helps our people recognize and mitigate hazards to prevent injury.

Incident Reporting: We report all incidents in a computerized database. These incidents are reviewed, and corrective actions are assigned. We track all the corrective actions and follow up with the employee to make sure the corrective action has been taken.

Stop Work Authority: Every employee has stop work authority (SWA) if they think something poses a risk.

Q: Where do you see growth opportunities in Albemarle's safety procedures?

Lindsey: I think it's important to keep advancing with the times and evolving with industry best practices and benchmarking other sites to see what they're doing well and try to incorporate these ideas into what we're doing. Just because something has worked for 20 years doesn't mean it's still the best way to do it. We never get complacent with safety.

Permitting *Update*

After two and a half years of collecting data to support our permit applications, Albemarle has begun submitting some of the permits with local, state and federal agencies to support the redevelopment of the Kings Mountain Mine. Over the next six to 18 months, Albemarle will submit about 30 permits.

Erik Carlson, Albemarle’s permitting and sustainability manager, said communication plays a large role in the permitting process. Many agencies will have a comment period, with some having hearings where people will be invited to provide oral comments.

To date, Albemarle has submitted mine and water permits to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DHEQ) for the planned tailings storage facility at Archdale. The mine permit for the primary Kings Mountain site is planned to be submitted to DHEQ in September.



More information can be found by visiting [the permitting section of the Albemarle Kings Mountain website](#).

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Update: *Scoping Comment Period Concludes*

Albemarle is undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to identify and evaluate potential impacts that may occur as a result of the Kings Mountain Mine, to further manage potential impacts and enhance benefits. A scoping report, intended to identify potential impacts for further assessment, was released for a 60-day comment period in June. The comment period is now closed, and we’d like to thank everyone who provided feedback.

What Happens Next?

Albemarle plans to address and share comments in the final scoping report, which will be made available in October 2024.

Feedback on the scoping report has provided the ESIA team with an understanding of the community’s important questions and concerns and will seek to address these through the impact assessment.

Albemarle anticipates outcomes of the impact assessment, together with proposed management measures, will be shared publicly in the first half of 2025. The draft ESIA report will be available for a 60-day comment period, supported by a series of Albemarle-hosted meetings to share our findings.



Further information on future meetings *will be shared on the [Albemarle Kings Mountain website](#).*

Community Events



Shelby Breakfast Rotary Club Back to School Bash

Albemarle Kings Mountain hosted a table at the Shelby Breakfast Rotary Club Back to School Bash on Thursday, August 1. The community affairs team enjoyed meeting families from across Cleveland County, handing out school supplies and educating community members about Albemarle’s operations in Kings Mountain. Kids of all ages examined rock samples and asked engaging questions while learning more about lithium mining.

National Night Out

Albemarle employees and the community affairs team joined various City of Kings Mountain departments on Tuesday, August 6, to greet our Kings Mountain neighbors at National Night Out in Patriot’s Park. The evening was filled with local vendors, great food and lively entertainment completed with school supply giveaways for students. Volunteers spoke to kids about their jobs and answered questions about lithium mining. This annual event builds and fosters police-community relationships, and Albemarle was honored to participate and celebrate the excitement of the new school year.



NC MedAssist Mobile Free Pharmacy

Albemarle employees took part in serving more than 900 families through NC MedAssist, a Mobile Free Pharmacy Program that provides free, over-the-counter medications to individuals and families that could not otherwise afford basic medications.

Community Events (Cont.)



City of Kings Mountain Beach Blast

Employee volunteers joined Albemarle’s community affairs team on Saturday, August 17, in Patriot’s Park, for the 25th annual Kings Mountain Beach Blast. Albemarle representatives enjoyed a full day of community engagement while hosting at the Albemarle tent, handing out sunglasses, sunscreen and hard hats to the kids. Site professionals were in attendance to answer questions about the planned lithium mining operations in Kings Mountain, and especially enjoyed speaking with former site employees.

Upcoming Events *Calendar* ▶

KINGS MOUNTAIN MINE TOUR: SEPTEMBER 5, 10, 17 AND 24

The 45-minute tour includes history, geology and current information on the pre-feasibility studies that have been completed, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Tour attendees will meet at the Albemarle Project Center (129 W. Mountain Street), and travel together by van to the mine site. Times vary and registration is required, contact Cindy Estridge at cynthia.estridge@albemarle.com. Be sure to check out [our website](#) to get the latest tour dates and times!



Visit the Albemarle Kings Mountain website ▶

Tell us *how we’re doing* ▶

Sign up for *future newsletters!* ▶

Albemarle is a global leader transforming essential resources into critical ingredients for mobility, energy, connectivity and health. We partner to pioneer new ways to move, power, connect and protect with people and planet in mind, enabling a more resilient world. Our global headquarters is approximately 35 miles from Kings Mountain in Charlotte, NC.

For more information visit albemarlekingmountain.com

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