

The Element

March 2024



ALBEMARLE SEEKS SUPPLIER DIVERSITY ►

Patricia Brown, Albemarle's Supplier Diversity Coordinator, aims to strengthen our supply chain and create meaningful opportunities for underrepresented groups.



ALBEMARLE ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH BE PRO BE PROUD NC ►

As a sponsor of Be Pro Be Proud NC, Albemarle employees were on-site at Kings Mountain High School earlier this month to interact with students.



ALBEMARLE KINGS MOUNTAIN CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING ►

Albemarle celebrates the grand opening of the Lithium Process Innovation Center (LPIC) and Lithium Process Development Dry Room (PDDR) facilities at the Kings Mountain site.



Upcoming Events *Calendar* ►

THINGS ARE 'LOOKING UP': APRIL 8

On April 8, Kings Mountain will be in the path of the eclipse! Join Albemarle at 1:30pm in the parking lot of the Gateway Trail—807 S. Battleground Ave, Kings Mountain—for this unique viewing experience. Albemarle staff will provide glasses to protect your eyes and the Cleveland County Astronomical Society will be on site with telescopes to help facilitate this experience! All community members are welcome.

[More upcoming community events ►](#)

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Albemarle Kings
Mountain Website ►**

Albemarle Seeks *Small, Diverse, and Local Suppliers*

At last month's Community Advisory Panel meeting, Albemarle briefed the panel on its Supplier Diversity Program. Patricia Brown, Albemarle's Supplier Diversity Coordinator, asked for the community's help in identifying qualified suppliers as the project moves ahead.

“ By actively seeking out and engaging with diverse suppliers, we strengthen our supply chain and create meaningful opportunities for underrepresented groups. ”

Albemarle seeks to engage the following types of businesses to support various opportunities at and around the mine site:

- Small businesses
- Minority-owned businesses
- Women-owned businesses
- Veteran-owned businesses
- Service-disabled veteran businesses
- HUBZone
- Small disadvantaged businesses
- Disability-owned businesses
- LGBTQ businesses

We will need businesses at the site to provide:

- Facility management
- Construction and maintenance services
- Electrical services
- Food
- Office cleaning
- Cleaning crews
- Landscapers
- Trucking companies
- Other service contractors

Albemarle focuses on providing opportunities to smaller and more diverse companies based within a 100-mile radius of Kings Mountain. As it takes time to become an approved vendor, we encourage small businesses to begin the application process now and utilize Albemarle's resources throughout the application process.

“By diversifying our supply chain, we tap into a broader pool of talent and ideas, driving innovation, creativity and competitiveness within our organization and beyond,” said Brown. “Doing business with diverse suppliers stimulates local economic growth, creates jobs and supports entrepreneurship.”

All applicants are required to provide the following information:

- Primary activity of your business
- Proof of certified diverse business, or small business according to the SBA
- Company's annual revenue and number of employees
- Company's average and largest project and/or account size
- Location(s)
- Proof of ISNet certification
- Current vendor(s)
- Year founded
- Website link

“Supporting diverse suppliers demonstrates our commitment to making a positive impact in the communities where we live and work,” adds Brown.

For more information about Albemarle's Supplier Diversity program, email supplierdiversity@albemarle.com.

Albemarle Kings Mountain Celebrates Grand Opening



On March 21, Albemarle celebrated the grand opening of the Lithium Process Innovation Center (LPIC) and Lithium Process Development Dry Room (PDDR) facilities at the Kings Mountain site

Each new facility contains technologies and processes of the future that are key to building the capacity and resources that the company can bring to market.

Eric Norris, Albemarle President of Energy Storage, and Glen Merfeld, Chief Technology Officer, joined the team at Kings Mountain, as the site celebrated the grand opening of two new facilities.

These new facilities contain technologies of the future that will allow the Kings Mountain teams to further develop commercial processes to produce raw materials for battery grade lithium metal, increase our understanding of processes that can enable new lithium

resources and optimize lithium purification and conversion technologies, and help commercialize the next generation of lithium metal anode products with materials that are thinner, wider and can be produced faster. The latest additions to the Kings Mountain site will help bolster Albemarle's position as an industry leader and further secures Kings Mountain as one of the most sophisticated sites for advanced lithium material development.

"We are out in front and it's all about higher energy density and the technology," said Norris.



“ It is inspirational to see things that were only ideas just a few years ago. ”

—GLEN MERFELD, ALBEMARLE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Kings Mountain *Mining 101* Video



The Kings Mountain site is one of the few known hard-rock lithium deposits in the U.S. and is expected to play a critical role in growing the U.S. supply of lithium. Watch [KM Mining 101](#) to learn about the various phases necessary to study, develop and operate the Kings Mountain Mine.

Community Events *Recap*



Albemarle Engages Students with Be Pro Be Proud NC

As a sponsor of Be Pro Be Proud NC, Albemarle employees were on-site at Kings Mountain High School earlier this month to interact with students.

Be Pro Be Proud is a national workforce development initiative focused on attracting students and young adults to technical careers through exciting simulation experiences while connecting them to post-secondary opportunities and careers. The mobile workshop allowed 9th-grade students to try out simulators for trade careers.

Kings Mountain Middle School Career Fair Includes Albemarle

Albemarle team members participated in the Kings Mountain Middle School Career Fair earlier this month to discuss the types of jobs available at the Kings Mountain site.

The fair allowed 8th-grade students to rotate through displays while meeting representatives from city and county government, first responder entities, the private sector and manufacturing companies.



Community Events *Recap*



CCS Robotics Tournament Kicks off at Cleveland County Schools

Albemarle was a proud partner of the CCS Robotics Tournament at Cleveland County Schools earlier this month. This event included coding segments, a Lego-build challenge and an environmental issues project that incorporated team building and presentations. Margot Plonk, Albemarle Education Specialist, served as a judge for the event and expressed how impressive she found the students' presentations.

Albemarle Supports Kings Mountain in “Sounding the Alarm”

A group of volunteers from Albemarle, in partnership with members of the American Red Cross and the Kings Mountain and Bethlehem Fire Departments, recently installed fire alarms in many resident homes. This was a part of the Sound the Alarm event to promote fire safety.

Smoke alarms are powered with lithium-ion batteries. Over the past year, the Sound the Alarm initiative has installed nearly 100 new lithium battery-powered smoke alarms in Kings Mountain.

DURING THIS CAMPAIGN, VOLUNTEERS:



Knocked on **200 doors**



Engaged **120 residents** in **46 households** in fire safety education



Installed **65 new lithium battery-powered smoke alarms**



“ Albemarle is happy to be a part of this wonderful event to help keep people safe in their homes. It is truly rewarding to see how relieved and happy these residents feel when they realize they have a new layer of safety in their homes. ”

—MARGOT PLONK, ALBEMARLE EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Upcoming Events *Calendar* ▶

KINGS MOUNTAIN MINE TOURS: APRIL 2, 11, 17, 23 AND 30

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!



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Albemarle leads the world in 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 albemarlekingsmountain.com

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