

# The Element



Kings Mountain

July 2023



## End Land Use

The Kings Mountain community has an opportunity to help Albemarle leave a positive legacy at the mine site, long after the proposed mine is closed.



## Q&A with Cale McDaniel

A 3rd generation Albemarle employee, Cale McDaniel is the Concentrator Safety Lead. Learn why he thinks the proposed mine, "has so much potential for the people of Kings Mountain."



## Sec. of Energy Visits KM

Our Kings Mountain team recently hosted U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm as part of her "People Powered Summer Road Trip."



## Upcoming Events Calendar

### July 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>—Kings Mountain Mine Tour

The 45-minute tour will include 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.

### August 4<sup>th</sup>—Free OTC Medicine Giveaway with NC MedAssist

Albemarle is partnering with NC MedAssist to help the community stock their medicine cabinets for FREE with over-the-counter medications. To participate, stop by Mt Zion Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, 220 N Watterson St. on August 4 between 9am–2pm.

### Celebrate National Night Out with Albemarle, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm, at Patriot's Park



Visit the [Albemarle Kings Mountain Website](#)



Scan the QR code to read more!

# U.S. Secretary of Energy Visits Kings Mountain

Our Kings Mountain team recently hosted U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm as part of her “People Powered Summer Road Trip.” The Charlotte area marked day one of the four-state visit, in which the secretary and her team traveled via electric vehicles to promote clean energy and climate initiatives in the Southeast.

During her tour of Albemarle’s Kings Mountain location, Secretary Granholm joined CEO Kent Masters, Energy Storage President Eric Norris, and several leaders from our energy storage team for a visit of the future mine site and our Battery Materials Innovation Center to learn more about the technology plans from our R&D team. Secretary Granholm was able to ask questions and see sample lithium material firsthand, while hearing how the mine is expected to supply local jobs and propel domestic production of this critical material. In closing comments, the secretary expressed the importance of Albemarle’s leadership in lithium battery product development as it fits in the bigger picture of global supply chain demand.

The trip also showcased how the \$150 million grant Albemarle was awarded from the Department of Energy in 2022 will be used. This grant will support a portion of the cost to construct a new, commercial-scale concentrator facility at the site, further advancing our position as a provider of the critical elements needed to power the clean energy revolution.

“Albemarle is proud to partner with the federal government to bring manufacturing jobs to the southeastern United States while strengthening the domestic lithium supply chain for the growing electric vehicle market,” said Eric Norris, president of Albemarle Energy Storage. “It was a pleasure to host Secretary Granholm at Kings Mountain and to share our vision for advancing the transition to clean energy.”



Pictures of U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm visit to Kings Mountain courtesy of [LinkedIn](#).

# End Land Use

How we design and manage a mine gives us the ability to generate a positive legacy during operation, while bringing jobs and economic activity to the surrounding community. But what happens post-mining? Albemarle wants to ensure that a positive legacy is extended to Kings Mountain long after the proposed mine is closed, so it is planning for its end land use now—with the input of the community.

As part of Albemarle’s commitment to responsible mining standards, we have been meeting with community members and consultants to explore end land use options for the proposed Kings Mountain mine. While the process of mine reclamation occurs once mining is completed, the planning of mine reclamation activities occurs prior to a mine being permitted.

Since March 2023, the Albemarle Kings Mountain Mine Project team has hosted six workshops with 80 community members to brainstorm, discuss and explore post-mining end-use options for the areas that will be affected by the proposed mining project. Closure plans are unique and site-specific, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. While the entire mine site may not be productive for closure activities, Albemarle will make every effort to utilize the productive pieces.

**While the final mine plan is currently under development, here is what we heard from you so far:**

- The majority of workshop attendees would like to see the land re-purposed for outdoor recreational activities, a natural environment, and entertainment options at the end of the mine closure process.
- The least favored end land use outcomes by attendees are warehouses and commercial development.
- The most highly-cited criteria for consideration among workshop attendees were economic impact, traffic, ownership model, and the number of people who will use the end land use solution.

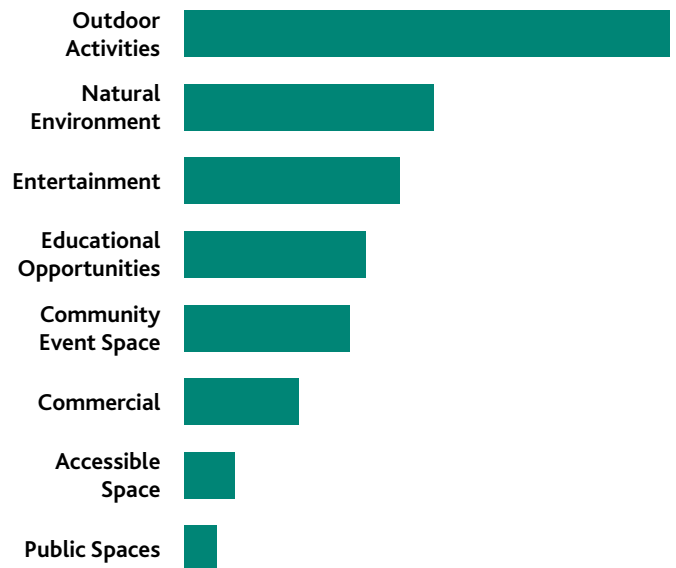
Do you have comments, questions, or concerns about the end land use for the proposed mining site?

**Please reach out and [let us know!](#)**



## What would you like to see at the end of the mine closure process?

Most common responses from attendees



Source: Community Workshop #1, Employee Workshop, and both Student Workshops



# Q&A with Cale McDaniel

Third-generation Albemarle employee and Kings Mountain native, Cale McDaniel, is currently the Concentrator Safety Lead, where his responsibilities include teaching and enforcing Albemarle's policies and procedures to ensure a safe working environment. He is also the Emergency Response Team (ERT) lead for the mining group, responsible for administering first aid, rescue, and potential incidents. Keep reading to learn more about his 28-year career at Albemarle, and why he thinks the proposed mine, "has so much potential for the people of Kings Mountain."

## Q: Can you talk about your career at Albemarle through your current role?

**A:** I started working with Albemarle in June 1995, coming on board as a secondary metals operator. From there, I transitioned to working as a primary metals operator. I worked my way up to a senior operator role, and from there, I began to work with the lithium hydroxide site build.

Around 2010, there was a job opening for a maintenance man to set up equipment, preventive maintenance plans and equipment bills of materials (BOMs) at the lithium hydroxide site. I worked with the start-up team for the hydroxide facility until 2012 when it was up and running.

After that, I transitioned back into metals and became a technical advisor for the lithium metals team. During that time, we started up our lithium metal distillation facility. Once that was up and running around 2017, I transitioned into a technical advisor role for secondary metals.

During the early part of the COVID pandemic, a lot of positions were moved around. I was requested to move from operations to a maintenance planning role, which I started in Sept. 2020. I was in that role before accepting my current position in January 2023.

## Q: What is your connection to Albemarle and Kings Mountain?

**A:** My grandfather, Dennis McDaniel worked at Albemarle from 1951 until his retirement in 1989. He worked his way up to chemical plant maintenance supervisor. My father, Larry "Stub" McDaniel, started his career with Albemarle in 1975 and retired in 2013. In that time, he was promoted to secondary metals production lead. I've been here since 1995, and the time that has passed is like a blink of an eye!

I am born and raised in Kings Mountain. My dad was the fire chief in Bethlehem for 15 years, and my grandfather was a founding member of Grover Rescue Squad. I was a member of Kings Mountain Fire Dept for 10+ years. Service to this community has always been in our family.



## Q: What stands out about the work you do at Albemarle that you don't think would happen elsewhere?

**A:** I wanted to transition into the mining group because I wanted to be part of something unique and great for this area. That's what I think lithium provides. The opening of this mine brings so much potential to the people of Kings Mountain – more than 300 full-time highly skilled jobs. And the lithium industry is so important to society. Most people don't realize its use in everyday society, from grease to medical devices. Yes, EVs are a large portion of the lithium conversation, but lithium is in everything in your everyday life. Corningware. Glass top stoves. Windows. The uses are unlimited.

## Q: What attracted you to Albemarle?

**A:** In this area, Albemarle pays the best wage, and is close to my home. Only 8 miles! There also is a lot of potential for growth. Our safety culture and commitment to the environment is as good or better than any company I've ever seen. I've been blessed beyond measure to work for such a wonderful company.

## Q: What have you learned from your time at Albemarle?

**A:** The work we do benefits so many lives daily. In secondary metals, we make anodes for implantable medical devices (pacemakers, internal defibrillators and internal brain stimulators for Parkinson’s disease). And of course, the work we do with EVs will help reduce the carbon footprint for future generations.

## Q: What has been your most memorable experience while working with Albemarle?

**A:** Around 2008, my wife had some health issues and needed to have transplant surgery in Minnesota. The on-site Albemarle employees donated enough vacation time to me so that I didn’t miss a day of work when I was offsite for a month and a half. It’s the people who keep me here.

## Q: Would you recommend working at Albemarle to others?

**A:** Absolutely. There’s a place for everyone at Albemarle. There will be so many jobs opening in the future. From heavy equipment operators, programmers, chemists, geologists, drillers, mechanics, and mechanics for autonomous equipment—the sky’s the limit.



## Q: If you weren’t working with Albemarle, what would you want to be doing?

**A:** Most folks don’t know this about me, but my wife and I are music majors so we like to sing, play and entertain. I know there’s a one-in-a-million chance of being a performer who makes a decent living, but wouldn’t it be fun to try?

## Q: How do you spend your time when you’re not at work?

**A:** We run a small sheep farm and breed teddy bear pups. We like to travel with our kids, and we are all avid skiers and snowboarders. We also enjoy our home in Beech Mountain, NC.

## Checking in with Community Affairs

### Albemarle at the Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market!

On June 24, visitors to the new Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market location had an opportunity to meet the Albemarle Community Affairs team and enjoy fun mining-related activities and giveaways.

We were excited to see so many friendly faces at the new location, 125 S Battleground Ave, Kings Mountain, and to be a part of a community that celebrates local farmers, artisans, and shoppers. The Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market, which is an extension of the Foothills Farmers’ Market, is open every Saturday morning through August.



### Albemarle Supports Habitat for Humanity Cleveland County

At Albemarle, having a sustainable impact on our community is imperative. This month, we donated ten truckloads (roughly 140 tons) of sand to Habitat for Humanity Cleveland County. The sand will be used to fill and level lots for new homes, which will play an important role in providing stable housing for families in Cleveland County.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization that demonstrates care by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. We are grateful for the opportunity to support an organization that is dedicated to caring for people through their work in sustainable and transformative development.



# Lithium in Your Life

**Lithium is one of the world's most important minerals.**

Lithium helps power our lives as a building block for modern battery technology, enabling electrification, clean energy and sustainable transportation, in particular electric vehicles (EV). It is such a critical mineral that the pioneers of lithium-ion battery technology won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2019 for their work in technology recognized as the “basis of our new rechargeable world.”

Lithium compounds are used to manufacture many of the products we all use every day. Lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide are needed for lithium-ion-batteries we all have in our mobile devices like smartphones, tablet computers and notebooks or in electric vehicles. Butyllithium is needed to produce synthetic rubber for tires. Lithium organics are versatile tools for the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, or for flavors and fragrances. The glass industry requires lithium carbonate or spodumene to improve the properties of glass. A cook plate made of glass-ceramics would not exist without lithium carbonate as this ingredient reduces its thermal expansion. Lithium bromide is used in industrial absorption refrigeration systems that are installed in large buildings and industrial plants for air conditioning or process cooling. See the image below for examples of lithium in our everyday lives.



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