



# Kings Mountain Mine: *Frequently Asked Questions*

Our mine project plan for the Kings Mountain Mine aims to provide stakeholders with the details for how the mine will operate, including mining methods and the impacts of the proposed mine project. We understand that such a plan is likely to generate many questions. We will continue to seek meaningful community input throughout the mine lifecycle, and we encourage all stakeholders to provide input/share ideas through our various communication channels.

## **Why lithium?**

Lithium exhibits unique characteristics that are difficult to replicate with competing battery materials. For example, lithium-ion batteries enable higher energy density (i.e., the amount of energy stored per unit volume or mass) and specific power (i.e., the ability to provide a power burst) than competing battery technologies.

Lithium is light and able to store large amounts of energy. As such, it has become the battery technology of choice to power our future.

## **What is the timing for the proposed Kings Mountain Mine project?**

There are many variables in a project of this size making it difficult to pinpoint exactly when the mine will be operational. We are focused on keeping the community support strong and have opened the Project Center downtown Kings Mountain to provide updates to the community.

Albemarle anticipates that the permitting process for the proposed Kings Mountain Mine will take approximately two years from permit submittal to final approval of the mine permit application.

An economically viable mine could potentially have a mine life of 20–30 years. We anticipate submitting a permit initially for 10 years.

## **How much lithium will the mine site produce once up and running?**

The mine is expected to produce 420,000 tons of spodumene concentrate per year. To provide an idea of the scale, that amount of material would support the initial manufacturing of approximately 1.2 million electric vehicles annually.

## **Will the lithium produced be used domestically or be exported?**

We intend for this lithium production to become part of the growing U.S. supply chain.

## **What measures is Albemarle taking to ensure the health and safety of Kings Mountain residents, wildlife, and the preservation of natural areas before, during and after the active mining period?**

Albemarle has conducted environmental studies at the Kings Mountain site to identify and predict potential risks, such as impacts to water, wetlands, wildlife, visual aesthetics, noise, air and proposed land use. Based on these findings, site-specific measures can be incorporated into the design.

Albemarle plans to implement industry best practices, including a rigorous environmental management plan outlining our approach to mining operations, water management and conservation, dust and noise controls and mine reclamation and closure.



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## How will this project impact the everyday lives of residents?

Albemarle is taking steps to resume mining operations at the site in an environmentally protective and socially responsible way. For the proposed Kings Mountain Mine, Albemarle will include measures for social impacts such as visual impact reduction, dust suppression, noise mitigation and community giving programs.

Albemarle plans to continue to seek community input throughout the mine life, including completing a voluntary Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to better understand and to develop environmental and social management plans that are designed to minimize adverse impacts and enhance benefits from the mine.

## What kind of support has the project received from the U.S. government?

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense announced a \$90 million grant for Albemarle Corporation to help support the expansion of domestic mining and the production of lithium for the nation's battery supply chain. The funding will be used to purchase a fleet of mining equipment as part of the planned reopening of the Kings Mountain mine.

In 2022, Albemarle was awarded a \$150 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to expand domestic manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles. Funding is intended to support a portion of the anticipated cost to construct a new, commercial-scale U.S.-based lithium mineral processing facility at Kings Mountain.

Albemarle will use a portion of the grant to support a \$5 million mineral processing operator training program at Cleveland Community College, a \$1.5 million minerals lab research program at Virginia Tech, and a \$1.5 million minerals pilot plant and engineering training program at North Carolina State University's Asheville Minerals Research Lab.

## What is the geopolitical importance of this type of project?

Albemarle is one of the few producers that already has producing lithium conversion assets in the United States with Silver Peak, Nevada. Today, the battery value chain is still largely reliant on China, with most lithium conversion and cathode production capacity in China.

The proposed Kings Mountain Mine project is expected to provide a domestic source of lithium to meet the growing demand for this critical mineral that is required to help the U.S. achieve its sustainable clean energy goals. Today, the Southeast region of the U.S. is home to a growing battery ecosystem and there are national security interests that factor into this vision for domestic battery resources—for example, lithium-ion batteries are used by the U.S. Department of Defense for satellites.

## How long will Albemarle be able to operate this mine?

Once we complete the pre-feasibility study, we will have a better view of the life of the resource and how we want to proceed, including possibly constructing in phases to optimize time to market and permitting.

Currently we are permitting the mine for 10 years, however an economically viable mine could potentially have a mine life of 20–30 years.

## Why has this mine sat idle for so long? When was the site last mined and by what company?

The previous Kings Mountain Mine was idled by the previous owner, Rockwood Holdings, to focus on brine deposits in Chile. Kings Mountain joined Albemarle as part of its acquisition of Rockwood Holdings in 2015.

Today, demand for lithium-ion batteries is growing at an exciting rate, driven in large part by increasing global demand for electric vehicles, mobile devices, and grid storage. We see these as essential markets intended to improve our quality of life by reducing air pollution, promoting electric mobility, enabling portable medical devices, and advancing renewable energy.

## How do I contact Albemarle if I have a question or concern about the proposed project?

There are several ways for you to contact us:

You may come to the Project Center at 129 W. Mountain Street in Kings Mountain from 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to ask questions and schedule a tour.

You may also call our dedicated Project Center at 704-734-2775.

Visit our website at [www.albemarlekingmountain.com](http://www.albemarlekingmountain.com) and submit your questions or concerns via the Contact Us button.

Further information is available in Spanish upon request or at [albemarlekingsmountain.com](http://albemarlekingsmountain.com)

For more information or to provide community feedback on the project:  
Email: [kmcommunity@albemarle.com](mailto:kmcommunity@albemarle.com) | Phone: 704-734-2775 | Website: [albemarlekingsmountain.com](http://albemarlekingsmountain.com)  
Mail or In-person: 129 West Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

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.

