

# Mosaic Gets Annual Approval

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Of The Herald-Advocate

Mosaic extracted nearly eight million tons of phosphate rock from its two Hardee County mines during the 2016-17 reporting period, which concluded May 31, 2017.

The company went before the Hardee County Commission and the Planning & Zoning Board on Thursday, Feb. 1, for its annual review.

Mosaic was granted permission to increase the number of semi-trucks leaving the South Pasture Mine in Fort Green and traveling to the South Fort Meade Mine east of Bowling Green from 68 per day to 268.

Mosaic officials said the extra trips were necessary after the company's Plant City facility, which processed the ore from the Fort Green mine, was idled for at least one year.

Mining activities are nearing the halfway point at the

South Fort Meade Mine, which began operating in Hardee County in 2010. The mine produced 4.62 million tons during the period.

Mining operations have occurred on 5,281 acres of the approved 11,620-acre mine, with 787 acres being mined during the reporting period.

Initial reclamation activities have been completed on 790 acres and an additional 544 acres are currently being reclaimed.

More than half of the South Pasture Mine in Fort Green has now been mined or disturbed by mining activities.

The South Pasture Mine, which includes what used to be called the North Pasture, South Pasture and South Pasture Extension, totals 26,799 acres, of which, 15,713 acres have been mined or disturbed.

The mine produced 3.3 million tons during the reporting period.

Mosaic expects to mine 696 acres during the next reporting period at the South Pasture Mine.

Ore from approximately 225 acres from the South Pasture Mine will be pumped and processed at the Four Corners beneficiation plant.

The mine has two active clay-settling areas totaling 1,113 acres.

Reclamation has been completed on 4,955 acres with an additional 294 acres in active reclamation and 651 acres of sand/clay mix area being dewatered.

Five citizens addressed the boards and opposed the mining activities taking place in one form or another.

Don Chancey said Mosaic controlling such a large percentage of the land in the county will greatly limit the amount of growth that could occur.

Brooks Armstrong raised

concerns over the water not percolating back into the aquifer after mining takes place.

Planning & Zoning member Ralph Arce acknowledged most citizens do not like what mining does to the landscape, but reiterated his job was to make sure Mosaic followed the guidelines and agreements from previously approved permits.

County Commissioner Mike Thompson pointed out he felt a "changing of the guards" with local management, and a much more corporate-type mentality had set in.

Thompson said he is hearing it is becoming harder to become a contractor working for Mosaic, with most coming from out of town.

He also said the company's charitable giving throughout the community was decreasing while it was giving out more in DeSoto County.