



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Better Car Wash Property
Columbia, South Carolina

SCDES (the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services) is accepting public comments on a proposed Voluntary Cleanup Contract through March 4, 2025.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 25-7855-NRP, will affect approximately 2.74 acres located at 150 Fountain Lake Road, Columbia, South Carolina. The property is further identified by Richland County Tax Map Serial Numbers R16315-03-03, R16315-03-02, R16315-03-04, and R16315-03-05. A company known as Atlas Shrugged, LLC (Atlas Shrugged), wants to acquire the property and intends to redevelop the property for use as a convenience store with gasoline and food service.

The property has a history of car wash operations with an associated oil-water separator. The past use of the property may have caused environmental pollution on the property.

SCDES uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to encourage productive reuse of Brownfield sites. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, SCDES will allow Atlas Shrugged to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution from past activity on the property.

SCDES will not hold Atlas Shrugged responsible for pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under the proposed contract, Atlas Shrugged will test soil and groundwater on the property. If significant contamination is found, Atlas Shrugged will be required to take steps to protect human health and the environment. Atlas Shrugged did not create the pollution, but will control it to keep the property safe for re-use. Under State law, Atlas Shrugged will not be responsible if anyone has been affected by the contamination. The responsibility of former owners or operators of the property is not reduced by this contract.

The proposed contract is available at <https://des.sc.gov/PublicNotices>. Printed copies may be obtained from the SCDES Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

The public may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract through March 4, 2025. Questions or comments may be directed to Nick Hammond, Project Manager, by e-mail at nick.hammond@des.sc.gov telephone (803) 898-0736, or TOLL-FREE at (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to Nick Hammond at SCDES, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.