

Bluffton hearts & darts

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Savannah

DHEC MAKES WRONG CALL

Darts ... to a state agency's failure to listen to coastal residents.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control board did not seem to take seriously a request last week to deny the first federal permit to test for oil and natural gas off the state's coast.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported Thursday that board member Clarence Batts described concerns about seismic testing's effect on marine life as appearing "to be more emotional involvement than factual involvement."

In reality, environmentalists and coastal communities are simply looking out for our state. As we have pointed out before, offshore drilling would seriously threaten South Carolina's all-important fishing and tourism industries.

There's a reason South Carolina municipalities have lined up to go on the record against testing and drilling. DHEC board members need to give their concerns the careful consideration they deserve.

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