



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Wheeler,

I wanted to make you aware of an issue regarding the East Rockhill Quarry, a mining operation being re-opened within my district.

In November 2018, asbestos was found during a routine quality check, and operations at the quarry have since been ceased. However, it took Pierson, the contracted company involved in this project, until December 5, 2018 to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local government, or local constituents of this hazard. Since the recent cease in operations, my constituents have brought up several concerns regarding the quarry. Based on those concerns, I'm asking that you direct the EPA Region 3 office to monitor the current situation, focusing specifically on violations related to the following:

- After finding the asbestos, Pierson continued mining operations until they were ceased by DEP in December. There was no penalty put on Pierson for this delay in reporting.
- On February 5, 2019, asbestos was found in the water samples by the quarry. There are still no mitigation plans in place to protect the people in the surrounding area.
- I was told by DEP that there would be a mitigation plan submitted by Pierson, approved by DEP, to protect constituents from asbestos exposure. We have yet to see that.
- The plume that is produced by the mining operation far exceeds the boundaries of the site, and constituents are able to see the dust disperse into the air above their homes. DEP assured us there would be an air pollution plan as well, but no such plan has been presented to my office.
- Continuous operations at the quarry – the information being reported currently says operations at the Quarry have be continuous with no break, which is what has allowed them to keep their permit. There is question on whether or not that is actually the case, and there needs to be a continued investigation into this.

- The Quarry owners have reported the extraction of exactly 500 tons of rock per year during this continuous operation period, it is impossible to extract that exact number each time and an investigation into this should continue.

As I'm sure we can agree, asbestos is a clear human health hazard, and my constituents deserve access to clean air and water supplies. The federal and state governments must work together to resolve this issue quickly and fully. I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick  
*Member of Congress*

CC: Cosmo Servidio, EPA Regional Administrator for the Mid-Atlantic Region