



EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 28, 2020

Via Certified Mail

Honorable Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: East Rockhill Township's Opposition to Reopening of Rock Hill Quarry

Dear Gov. Wolf:

On behalf of the residents of East Rockhill Township, the Board of Supervisors of East Rockhill Township writes to you to express our deep concerns regarding the Rock Hill Quarry, which is located in our Township. The Township joins the overwhelming majority of those who may be affected by the Quarry's operations in voicing its opposition to the reopening of the Quarry.

The Quarry was left dormant for more than thirty years until its owner, Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania, LLC's ("Hanson"), began to take steps to reactivate operations in 2018. Indeed, while a thriving residential community developed in the surrounding area, Hanson failed to maintain continuous active operations in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's regulations, thereby forfeiting its surface mining permit. Nevertheless, Hanson pushed forward to reopen the Quarry. In November 2018, Hanson's sampling revealed the presence of asbestos, but instead of informing the Department immediately of this life-threatening discovery, Hanson waited to disclose it until just hours after the Department issued an Air Quality Plan Approval which authorized the construction and temporary operation of a rock crusher at the Quarry. Upon learning of the asbestos sample results, the Department issued an order to Hanson to cease all mining and rock crushing activity, and subsequent sampling has revealed significant levels of naturally occurring asbestos in the rock formation at the Quarry.

The Township has appealed the Air Quality Plan Approval and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Quarry, which are pending before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board. The Township more recently received a ruling from the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas upholding its denial of an application to construct an asphalt plant at the Quarry. Shortly after that ruling, Hanson announced that its contract operator, Richard E. Pierson Materials Corp., terminated its lease with Hanson and will be removing its equipment from the Quarry shortly. While this is a welcome development, it may only be temporary.

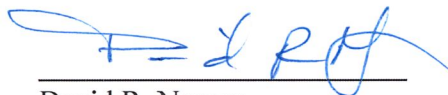
The residents of East Rockhill Township are deeply concerned about the presence of asbestos at the Quarry and Hanson's efforts to minimize the dangers of it. Notwithstanding serious and legitimate health concerns, Hanson has persistently refused to provide additional information and conduct additional analyses requested by the Department. And, time and time again, Hanson has violated the Department's cessation order, yet resulting in only minor enforcement actions by the Department. Most recently, in response to residents' concerns, the Pennsylvania Department

of Health issued a letter, dated February 7, 2020, which specifically states that naturally occurring asbestos “should be avoided and left alone” and to “[a]void blasting it, crushing it, or grinding it up.”

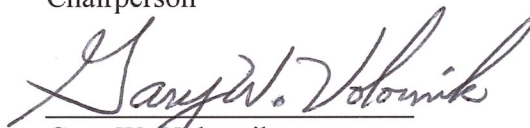
The Township and its residents need confirmation that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health do not intend to allow mining activity to recommence at the Quarry. The Township has limited resources and, for planning purposes, develops prospective budgets that allocate those resources, including those pertaining to emergency services and infrastructure improvements. The allocation of those resources will vary dramatically depending on whether operations at the Quarry will recommence or remain ceased. The uncertain future status of the Quarry is continuing to restrict the Township’s ability to plan for the safety of its residents.

For these reasons, the Board of Supervisors of East Rockhill Township respectfully requests that you ensure that the Rock Hill Quarry does not reopen. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Chairperson



Gary W. Volovnik
Vice Chairperson



James C. Nietupski
Member

cc: Township File
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