



July 23, 2021

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, Chairman
Robert J. Harvie, Jr., Vice Chairman
Gene DiGirolamo
County of Bucks
Office of the Commissioners
Bucks County Administration Building
55 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) June 21 decision to partially grant an extension to Hanson Aggregate Pennsylvania, LLC (Hanson) to respond to specific items requested in the Department's April 12 technical deficiency letter.

We acknowledge the frustration of the residents of East Rock Hill Township due to the Department granting the extension to allow Hanson to collect the additional data listed in Items 10. e. through 12. c. However, the extension is necessary and will provide the Department a better understanding of the Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) occurrence at the Rock Hill Quarry and how best to proceed regarding any activity at the Rock Hill Quarry.

Regardless of the scale of the mining operation, many mining processes are common to surface mining operations. These processes include, but are not limited to:

- Installation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls
- Clearing of land or revegetation of affected land
- Relocation of overburden by haulage or bulldozing
- Drilling and blasting
- Loading, haulage, and bulldozing of shot rock
- Crushing and screening of shot rock
- Loading and haulage of prepared aggregate
- Water monitoring
- Dust control and monitoring

An operation that involves closure and reclamation of the Rock Hill Quarry will include most of the above processes.

A de-minimis operation such as shipping 500 tons of prepared aggregate per year will involve fewer processes but will still have the potential to generate dust and in the case of the Rock Hill Quarry, that dust has the potential to contain varying concentrations of NOA fibers.

The Department must take all possibilities into account when making the determination regarding the future of the Rock Hill Quarry.

Items 1. through 10. d. of the Department's April 12 technical deficiency letter largely required Hanson to provide additional details and revise existing plans to address the handling and mitigation of exposure to NOA at the Rock Hill Quarry. Items 10 e. through 12 c. required extensive additional and repetitive testing in concert with those revised plans as well as detailed risk analysis as suggested by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The Department is presently reviewing the responses submitted on July 6 and if satisfactory, will allow for the additional testing and risk analysis to take place. Regardless of the scale of future quarry operations at the Rock Hill Quarry, complete and exhaustive data is required.

The Department has been transparent and will continue to take diligent consideration of the concerns of the residents and health experts, and we will maintain that practice before making any determination regarding the future of quarry operations at the Rock Hill Quarry.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Greg Kauffman, Director of Legislative Affairs, by email at grekauffma@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.783.8303.

Sincerely,



John J. Stefanko
Deputy Secretary
Active and Abandoned Mine Operations