

CRAIG T. STAATS, Member
145th Legislative District

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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Harrisburg

January 28, 2020

Committees
Education
Finance
Liquor Control
State Government

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Dept. of Environmental Protections Headquarters
Rachael Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

FEB 4 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

On behalf of the concerned residents of East Rockhill Township, I write to you to express my ongoing concerns with the asbestos issue at the Rock Hill Quarry, Perkasie, Bucks County. Frustrated residents continue to reach out to my district office with questions on continuing bases. I am aware of the efforts of the DEP to work with the relevant parties which includes the residents of East Rockhill, owner Mr. Hanson Aggregates, and operator R.E. Pierson.

Information was relayed to me that the Rockhill Quarry is the only quarry in Pennsylvania that lies within a residential area where naturally accruing asbestos was found. I share concerns with the residents of East Rockhill Township, Bucks County, potentially becoming a "test case" to determine if this is a safe environment. History tell us there are times when it takes decades to find the answers which will answer our questions.

I am sure you are aware of a local non-profit environmental organization named REPA which was hired to provide additional expertise on these ongoing issues. I understand there are four reports from Dr. Bradley Erskine. These reports provide information that could possibly improve the testing protocols for all parties involved regarding naturally occurring asbestos.

Due to DEP noted concerns in prior testing protocols, Dr. Erskine's recommendations should be given serious consideration and hopefully implemented. I understand you have received copies of Dr. Erskine's reports, which include the report summaries. The residents request is to have these recommendations by Dr. Erskine become part of the quarry testing protocols.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you give this matter your full and fair consideration. Our goal is to safeguard the health and safety of the East Rockhill Community. Combining DEP's and Dr. Erskine's expertise can be a powerful force in protecting our homes and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig T. Staats".

CRAIG T. STAATS
PA House of Representatives
145th Legislative District
Bucks County

CC: Governor Tom Wolf
Ms. Katie Zackon