

BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2019

Mr. Gary Latsha
Acting Mining Manager
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pottsville District Mining Operations
5 West Laurel Boulevard
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Mr. Latsha,

I am writing to follow-up on our June 14 meeting at your Southeast Regional Office regarding the East Rockhill Quarry. During this meeting, the Department stated that all operation at the Quarry will continue to be ceased and that no decision has been made regarding the future of the site. Additionally, I was assured that materials provided by Erskine Environmental Consulting would be fully considered when reviewing any permitting of the Quarry.

During the meeting, it was said that the East Rockhill Quarry is the first instance in the Commonwealth where asbestos has been found in a quarry near a residential area. Although I understand Department protocol, I urge you to treat this case as the unique situation it clearly is. Due to the location of this quarry, and the transportation needs of the materials extracted, I am concerned that normal procedures may be insufficient to protect my constituents.

Finally, the decision on whether to allow the Quarry to re-open is being based on "all records available". However, Department officials acknowledged they do not have information from 1980-2005. Further, there is a lack of precise data regarding tonnage reporting. I am asking that you continue to search for these figures, and interview involved parties to find other pieces of documentation.

Thank you for the work you are doing to protect my constituents from this dangerous situation. As you move forward reviewing this case, I urge you to continue to keep my office updated on any developments and do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian K. Fitzpatrick".

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress