



March 5, 2021

Mr. Gary Latsha, Inspector Supervisor
Department of Environmental Protection
Pottsville District Mining Office
5 West Laurel Boulevard
Pottsville, PA 17901

**Re: Technical Deficiencies for the Rockhill Quarry
Comments of March 3, 2021 from Dr. Bradley Erskine of Erskine Environmental Consulting,
Inc. (EEC) re: PA DEP letter dated November 18, 2020 and Hanson Aggregates response of
January 15, 2021**

Dear Mr. Latsha:

It is of grave concern to REPA and the residents of East Rockhill Township that Hanson continues to evade responsibility for the Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) that is pervasive throughout the diabase in the Rockhill Quarry and poses a danger to the community.

In Hanson's January 15, 2021 response to PA DEP, among other inadequacies, Hanson circumvented PA DEP's requested plan for the special handling of toxic materials by declaring the topic "non-applicable". Additionally, Hanson's lack of response to issues revealed again and again by EEC on the proper testing and handling of NOA, and now their failure to address questions and recommendations from the PA DOH, raises somber concerns.

Furthermore, when faced with a) Hanson's repeated deficiencies and attempts to underreport NOA levels, b) overwhelming evidence on the pervasiveness of asbestos in the rock at the Rockhill quarry, and c) resounding calls from residents, legislators and numerous environmental groups to permanently cease operation, PA DEP's refusal to deny Hanson a mining permit, to date, raises serious doubts about its commitment to protecting the community from asbestos related hazards.

It is abundantly clear that answers provided by Hanson are wholly deficient and that there is no safe way to conduct mining operations in the Rockhill quarry where NOA can be found throughout the rock. Who will be liable for asbestos related illnesses or death in the community, even if contaminated rock is only sold or transported?

PA DEP is responsible for permitting Hanson to operate in all capacities. Therefore, REPA is once again calling on PA DEP to take expedient and necessary actions to protect the community from deadly asbestos related diseases by permanently shutting down all operations at the Rockhill Quarry.

Respectfully yours,

Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Thomas Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, PA-DEP
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Representative PA-01
The Honorable Steven Santarsiero, 10th Senatorial District
The Honorable Craig Staats, PA's 145th Legislative District
The Honorable Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Chair, Bucks County
Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Robert Harvie, Jr., Vice Chair, Bucks County
Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Gene DiGirolamo, Bucks County Board of
Commissioners
Steven Baluh, P.E
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township Manager
Megan Banis-Clemens, Pennridge School District, School
Board Member
Amiee Bollinger PADEP
Virginia Cain, PADEP
Robert Fogel, PADEP
Erika Furlong, PADEP
Craig Lambeth, PADEP
Shawn Mountain, PADEP
Patrick Patterson, PADEP
James Rebarchak, PADEP
Daniel Sammarco, PADEP
Sachin Shankar, PADEP
Richard Tallman PADEP
Doug White, PADEP
Michael Kutney, PADEP
John Stefanko, PADEP