



April 28, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: PERMANENT CLOSURE of
Rockhill Quarry, East Rockhill, Bucks County, PA**

Dear Governor Wolf:

While operations are under a temporary cessation order from PADEP, we are requesting you to **permanently close** the Rockhill Quarry.

In a letter written to [REPA on February 7, 2020](#), the PA Department of Health shared that the Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) at the Rockhill Quarry site "should be avoided and left alone" and that it would be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the residents if it were to be disturbed in any way. PA DOH further states: "Avoid blasting it, crushing it, or grinding it up. . . Especially avoid digging, transporting and/or gardening in areas in which NOA has been detected or suspected to be present."

Senator Steve Santarsiero followed up with a [letter response to the Department of Health](#) and asked "how could anyone reasonably argue that operating an active quarry there should be allowed?" Not only has Senator Santarsiero supported our efforts regarding our concerns, but so has [Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick](#), the [Bucks County Commissioners](#), [Richland Township](#), and [State Representative Craig Staats](#). **They ALL have asked the Commonwealth to permanently cease operations and for closure of the Rockhill Quarry.**

Recent asbestos test results at the Rockhill Quarry and quarry owner's attempts to dismiss the hazards raise even more alarming concerns for the health and safety of our community. REPA's expert geologist, Dr. Bradley Erskine, has issued several reports indicating that results to date have severely under reported asbestos levels, and that the methodologies for test results submitted to DEP by Lehigh Hanson Quarries have not been in conformance with universally recognized standards of practice for asbestos testing. Dr. Erskine is a Professional Geologist and Cal/OSHA Certified Asbestos Consultant with 33 years of expertise in Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) for federal, municipal, and private-sector clients. Dr. Erskine's reports for the Rockhill Quarry can be found here: <https://rockhillpa.org/asbestos-update/>.

The Rockhill Quarry owner continues to rely on sampling and testing methods criticized by Dr. Erskine despite Dr. Erskine's comments that include "repeated deviations from test methods, misinterpretation of data, and under reporting of asbestos levels significantly increases the risk of exposure for workers, residents and [more than 11,600] school children to a known and dangerous carcinogen."

The testing for asbestos at the Rockhill Quarry is a major concern with the residents of East Rockhill Township, and a recent request by the Quarry owner for a nine-month extension delivered only four days before the deadline is not acceptable. Based on the information provided, [REPA concluded the reasons given for the extension have no merit](#) and requested that DEP not accept the extension. [East Rockhill Township also opposed Hanson's request](#). While the DEP did not accept the requested extension of nine months, they did allow for an extension for a shorter time period.

All testing has identified NOA at the Rockhill Quarry. PADEP, PADOH and even the quarry owner, through its consultant EARTHRES, have all agreed that asbestos is present at the site. Further testing will not change the existence of NOA. For that reason and to protect the health of everyone in the immediate area the Rockhill Quarry must be PERMANENTLY CLOSED.

Given all that we know about the dangers of asbestos and the risks that operating the Rockhill Quarry poses to residents, "how could anyone reasonably argue that operating an active quarry there should be allowed?"

REPA has made requests that PADEP require that all operations at the Rockhill Quarry permanently cease, however that has not happened. We are hopeful you can help.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this serious matter.

Respectfully yours,

Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary PADEP
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
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township Manager
Paul Stepanoff, Richland Township Manager



Michael Kutney, P.G., Mining Permit Chief, PADEP
John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned
Mine Operations, PADEP
Gary Latsha, District Mining Manager, PADEP

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2.7.20 PA Department of Health Letter to REPA
2. 2.12.20 Letter from Senator Steve Santarsiero to PA
DOH
3. 2.18.20 Press Release from Congressman Brian
Fitzpatrick
4. 2.21.20 Letter from Bucks County Commissioners to
PADOH and PADEP
5. 3.10.20 Letter from Richland Township to PADEP
6. 3.13.20 Letter from Rep. Craig Staats to PADEP
7. 4.3.20 Letter from REPA to PADEP
8. 4.8.20 Letter from East Rockhill Township to PADEP