



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Secretary Jessica Shirley
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Secretary Shirley,

We have reviewed the most recent status report filed with the Environmental Hearing Board in the NPDES permit appeal at EHB Docket # 2018-128-CS, and are deeply concerned by the ongoing delay by Heidelberg in providing needed information.

Despite repeated requests for additional information, the DEP has not received sufficient responses, and Heidelberg continues to delay. Why is DEP allowing these repeated extensions which have now dragged on for years? It is unacceptable that, after all this time, DEP still does not have the necessary information to move forward with a proper evaluation.

We have brought this delay tactic to your attention in the past outside of the NPDES Permit concern. The PA DEP mining permit review process has been ongoing for more than SEVEN years. PA DEP has granted Heidelberg at least eight extensions, despite Heidelberg's repeated failure to adequately respond to PA DEP deficiency notices. By repeatedly extending deadlines, PA DEP has given Heidelberg more than ample opportunity "to make sure Heidelberg's Quarry operation comply with Pennsylvania environmental statutes and the Department's regulations", and ample opportunity to demonstrate that operation will be sufficiently protective of health and safety of residents. Baseline regulatory requirements are not necessarily protective for a major long-term project that involves large quantities of N A-containing rock. We could share more, but please reference our concerns supported by Senator Steve Santarsiero as well as Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

We urge you to clarify what specific actions are being taken to follow up on these outstanding issues specific to the NPDES Permit. Given these ongoing gaps and delays, we strongly believe that this permit should not be allowed to proceed further.

We would like to additionally add another point regarding the site of the Rockhill Quarry. It is clear, after six years of investigation, that N A is prevalent in the Rockhill Quarry. Repeated testing has confirmed that evidence. After multiple requests DEP has never provided scientific evidence that any amount of asbestos is safe. It is time for DEP to permanently close the Rockhill Quarry to protect the residents, the students and the workers that will have exposure to the NOA.

We appreciate your attention to this serious matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully yours,

Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc. (REPA)

cc: The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Jarrett Coleman, 16th Senatorial District

The Honorable Steven Santarsiero, 10th Senatorial District

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Representative PA-01

The Honorable Craig Staats, PA's 145th Legislative District

Deputy Secretary Greg Kauffman, Governor's Office of
Legislative Affairs

Deputy Secretary John Stefanko, PA-DEP Office of Active and
Abandoned Mine Operations

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

Kelly Harper, Pennridge School District, Director of Operations

Todd Hippauf, Quakertown Community School District, School
Board President

Daniel Koury, PADEP