

Stephen M. Cobaugh

231 School LN

Elizabethtown, PA 17022-8111

July 7, 2023

Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
Pottsville District Office
5 W Laurel Blvd.
Pottsville, PA 17901-2522

Dear DEP:

I would like to hereby voice my opposition to an application to expand quarry operations by R. E. Pierson Materials in West Donegal Township, Lancaster County. I am a 30-year homeowner in the community of Rheems, where the quarry lies, and have a personal vested interest in the outcome of your pending decision.

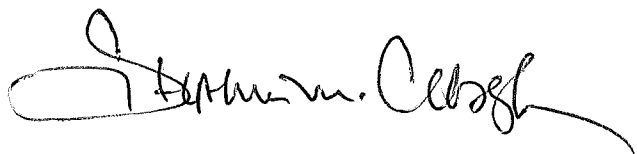
The existing 100-acre quarry abuts -- or is in very close proximity to -- residential streets which have already been negatively impacted by existing quarry operations. These include noise from daily blasting, constant dust pollution, and dry wells from a noticeable drop in the ground water table for some residents not connected to the municipal water supply. Some of my neighbors on adjacent Donegal Drive also report constant cracks in drywall due to the underground shockwave from blasting. The quarry itself is an industrial eyesore, adding to excessive truck traffic through our village and noticeable damage to the surrounding road infrastructure.

Despite considerable public objection from myself and other impacted citizens, West Donegal Township has demonstrated no interest in protecting our environmental rights and quality of life to which we are entitled. The township has taken the ill-advised position that expansion should be permitted because there's existing stone in the new parcel, siding with an out-of-state corporation over local residents and farmers who will be impacted by an additional 30-acre expansion.

Expansion of the existing quarry operations will not only exacerbate existing problems such as fumes and particulate emissions, but also will likely lead to sinkholes and contamination to crops grown in adjacent fields. Additional private wells are also likely to be impacted as well. Furthermore, property values will be diminished for those of us whose life-savings are tied to homeownership.

Lastly, R.E. Pierson Materials Corporation is an unreliable neighbor with a record of regulatory infractions and ongoing legal cases in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They have not demonstrated the willingness, capacity or interest in living in harmony with their neighbors and are unworthy of being awarded approval to enact additional blight to our rural landscape.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Cough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen M. Cough