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Public Comments on Rheems Quarry Expansion, July 14, 2023

Bad air days in Lancaster County have moved from occasional to daily.

Our northwest corridor has absorbed a multitude of industrial pollutants from Brunner's Island over 60 years., compounded by the incinerator (500 tons NOCs/yr.) and Perdue's soy bean crushing plant, (100 tons of neurotoxin hexane) Our bad air has led Delaware and Connecticut to petition the EPA to require effective air controls at power plants and reduce emissions affecting their states. DEP has permitted air quality credits from a defunct NY plant to be applied to the soybean plant, substituting air pollution from one area to another, a profitable industry practice. Political decisions serve to worsen air quality for a population already at risk. The American Lung Association's warnings of grade F for particle pollution serves as a warning for regulatory state agencies to address these serious threats to the public's health.

Our Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1, enables Pennsylvania citizens to clean air and pure water. "As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Our state has the opportunity to reduce effects on both issues and commit to making residents' welfare and well being priority in denying any expansion of the Rheems Quarry. The physical threats are obvious; groundwater contamination, structural damage to tax paying residents' homes, dust pollutant emissions, etc. The town of Rheems needs government to respect their property rights, not award them with mitigation repair systems after damage has denied them fair market price on their investments.

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