

**From:** [EP, PottsvilleDMO](#)  
**To:** [Aimee Achorn](#); [EP, PottsvilleDMO](#)  
**Cc:** [Folk, Tiffany](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Objection to Pierson Quarry Expansion  
**Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024 8:29:15 AM

---

Thank you for your comments. They will be included as part of the public record for this permit application.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact our permit chief, Tiffany Folk (cc'd).

Sincerely,

-Mike

**Michael Kutney, P.G.** | District Mining Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Pottsville District Mining Office  
5 West Laurel Boulevard | Pottsville, PA 17901  
Phone: 570.621.3118 | Fax: 570.621.3110  
[www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov)

**PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION**

*The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any use of this information other than by the intended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please send a reply e-mail to the sender and delete the material from any and all computers. Unintended transmissions shall not constitute waiver of the attorney-client or any other privilege.*

---

**From:** Aimee Achorn [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:56 PM  
**To:** EP, PottsvilleDMO <RA-EPPOTTSVILLEDMO@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Objection to Pierson Quarry Expansion

***ATTENTION:*** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown senders. To report suspicious email, use the [Report Phishing button in Outlook](#).*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong objection to the expansion of the Pierson Quarry in Rheems, Lancaster County.

Thank you to those representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection who attended the public hearing in February at the Rheems Fire House. You were witness to the concerns of those who packed the room that night, over 60 residents and friends who represented a unanimous belief that a Pierson Quarry expansion would have deeply negative effects on residents, their resources and the local community. You heard the reports of the pollution and

destruction of home-owners' water sources, cracks in the walls and foundations of their homes, and air and sound pollution. You heard them anticipate the potential effects of pollution on local farms and express their fears about the impact on property values.

Speakers at the hearing outlined the scientific basis for the Rheems community's arguments against the expansion of the Pierson Quarry. I'm writing to you about the responsibility of local and state authorities to be powerful and farsighted stewards of what makes Pennsylvania great. Lancaster County is home to some of the best farmland in the world, and more importantly, farm culture. Farmers dedicate their lives to planting, tending, nurturing, growing, stewarding and renewing. Their commitment means that when we are enjoying family and fun on Labor Day, they are laboring in their fields. This ethic is an important part of our identity and our success in the Keystone State. And I know I can speak for many Lancastrians when I say that I wouldn't live anywhere else because of this very special culture. I have traveled the roads through the farmland that surrounds Rheems since I was a child in the 70s, and I know -- many of us know -- that this is God's country.

I grew up surrounded by this precious farmland south of Elizabethtown and attended Rheems Elementary School. The original owners of the quarry were so committed to the welfare of their community that they built their home right above it. They maintained some of the local roads when the tiny little township couldn't afford to do it themselves. On a personal level, when my parents were newlyweds and didn't have two dimes to rub together, they brought them fresh vegetables they had grown in their garden. My father spent summers in College in the 1950s working for them digging ditches and transporting stone to build local roads, and they had a strong mutual respect all their lives.

I see a stark contrast with Pierson Quarry. They are headquartered in New Jersey with most of their business interests also in New Jersey. They don't have a personal stake in this community. This has been made clear by the challenges that Rheems residents have already experienced securing commitments and follow-through from Pierson to correct problems caused by their blasting. And the quarry hasn't even expanded yet.

I wonder about some of the community impact that hasn't been explored in detail. I wonder about the impact on school children and Rheems nursing home residents of the constant blasting in 30 fresh acres of quarry, the edge of which is visible from the Catherine Hershey School playground. I wonder about the impact of this fresh blasting on the 300-year old Donegal Presbyterian Church, which is already only 3 miles south of the quarry. It will be even closer if the quarry expands. I wonder what these good, hardworking people will do if their property values plummet. And I wonder what sort of regional health crisis might take place if the expansion has unexpected consequences that pollute nearby farm products.

Over the course of the past few years, Rheems residents have worked diligently to understand the situation at hand and to voice their concerns to their local representatives. Their local representatives largely ignored them. Now, the community is looking to you -- our state-level leaders who protect the health and safety of our environment -- for help.

I live in Palmyra now, but have remained aware and involved because I will always view the Elizabethtown area as my home. There are many more eyes on this issue than just those of the small population of Rheems. We are hopeful that your expertise will help place the community on a better path. Please stand up for the interests of the people of the village of Rheems. Their concerns and positions are clear. Please protect the health and welfare of these local residents and

the farmland that is crying out to be preserved. Please do your best to nurture and renew this wonderful, hard-working, tax-paying community.

Sincerely,  
Aimee Achorn Fasnacht  
Palmyra, Pennsylvania