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*Democratic Caucus Secretary*



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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

March 11, 2025

Honorable Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Re: Heidelberg Materials Rockhill Quarry Cessation Order

Dear Acting Secretary Shirley:

As the State Senator for the 10<sup>th</sup> District, which previously included East Rockhill Township, I am writing today to respectfully request the permanent closure of Rockhill Quarry located in East Rockhill Township. I feel strongly that it is the best interest of the surrounding community that mining operations never resume at this location.

Quarry operations have been ceased since 2018 when Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) particles were identified there. In the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) letter dated February 7, 2020, sent to the Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance (REPA), it is stated that naturally occurring asbestos is "best to be avoided and left alone". The Rockhill Quarry is located near a residential area and within a mile of an elementary school and day care center. The risk of exposure to a known cancer-causing carcinogen is far too great to this community.

In 2022 and 2023 activity-based sampling was conducted in an effort to determine whether it is safe to operate the quarry in any capacity. These tests, while designed to simulate operational conditions, were limited to carefully controlled circumstances and not sufficient to provide assurance that the NOA does not pose a risk to the surrounding community. I am confident, based on the DOH statement, that there is no safe way for mining operations to resume at the Rockhill Quarry because any operation that disturbs rocks containing or adjacent to NOA creates risk of airborne contaminants. There is no way to ensure that future operations will not create exposure risk to the surrounding community. The only way to protect the community from potential exposure is to rescind the mining permit and permanently close the quarry.

While the quarry operations have been ceased for the past six years, the residents and local officials are anxious to have resolution on the future of the quarry and the safety of their community. I respectfully request the mining permit be rescinded, and the quarry closed once and for all. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Steven J. Santarsiero  
10<sup>th</sup> District

cc: REPA  
Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Commissioner Bob Harvie  
Commissioner Diane Ellis Marseglia  
Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo  
State Senator Jarrett Coleman, 16<sup>th</sup> District  
State Representative Craig Staats, 145<sup>th</sup> District  
East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors  
West Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors  
Pennridge School District Board of Directors