



Pennsylvania
**Department of
Environmental Protection**

March 24, 2025

Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc.
703 W Market Street
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear REPA Members:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the status of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) review of the Heidelberg Rock Hill Quarry permit application. Your letter expresses concern with the pending Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) appeal of the 2018 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal and the pending 2018 revision of the surface mining permit under review (2018 SMP revision).

As outlined in the February 12, 2025, joint party status report to the Environmental Hearing Board (regarding the 2018 NPDES renewal) referenced in your letter, DEP is still reviewing the September 30, 2024, response to comments concerning the 2023 NPDES Permit renewal and modification application. The parties to the appeal and the EHB are agreeable to the extension.

As you are aware, DEP has received hundreds of comments and dozens of technical reports, letters, and sample results related to the 2018 SMP revision. DEP carefully reviewed all the reports, letters, and sample results we received and frequently asked for more information or re-analysis of samples based on information received. DEP required Activity Based Sampling (ABS) of the air at the quarry following EPA guidelines. Among the requirements for the ABS were certain weather conditions, which required months of waiting for those conditions to exist so the ABS could be conducted.

DEP is in the process of preparing responses to hundreds of comments received from interested parties over the past seven years concerning the 2018 SMP revision. In addition, DEP now has an environmental toxicologist on staff who has been providing input and guidance on toxicological and risk assessment related to the presence of Naturally Occurring Asbestos at the Rock Hill Quarry.

DEP anticipates a decision on the Rock Hill Quarry after all comments received to date pertaining to the 2018 SMP revision have been thoroughly addressed. DEP wants to ensure transparency during the application review while taking diligent consideration of the concerns of residents and health experts before making any determination regarding the future quarry operations at the Rock Hill Quarry.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Michael Kutney P.G, District Mining Manager, Pottsville District Mining Office, at mkutney@pa.gov or by telephone at 570.621.3118.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Shirley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jessica Shirley
Acting Secretary