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January 14, 2022

Honorable Patrick McDonnell
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Re: Rockhill Quarry East Rockhill Township Bucks County, PA

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

This letter is in response to a letter you received from Senator Steven J. Santarsiero, dated December 21, 2021, with respect to the above referenced quarry. Senator Santarsiero sent this letter to (a) object to the request by Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania LLC (“Hanson”) to continue to hold in abeyance the minimum tonnage removal requirement for active mine operations due to the Cessation Order, dated December 5, 2018, and (b) direct the Department to rescind the mining permit and permanently close this quarry. Senator Santarsiero’s reply should be disregarded for several reasons.

First, the Department already approved Hanson’s request for a continued abeyance by letter dated December 3, 2021.

Second, Senator Santarsiero references a “permit application process” related to this quarry. That characterization is not correct. Hanson maintains an active mining permit for this quarry. The Department issued a Cessation Order, back on December 5, 2018, in response to Hanson’s self-reporting of some limited naturally occurring asbestos that was identified as part of the Department required testing at the quarry. The Cessation Order has essentially “stayed” any mining activities on the property while the Department receives and reviews additional information from Hanson as to future operations. Hanson has requested the Department to lift the Cessation Order. There is no pending permit application process.

Third, Senator Santarsiero references “continued delays” between the Department and Hanson as to the information requested by the Department. That is simply not true. Hanson has timely

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responded to each and every request by the Department for additional information. Hanson's last submission to the Department was on December 6, 2021, in response to a written request from the Department on October 21, 2021.

Fourth, Senator Santarsiero ends his letter by stating that "there continues to be no acceptable safe operation that can occur at this facility" and that the "mining permit be rescinded...and the quarry closed...". Clearly, Senator Santarsiero has not reviewed any of the information and documentation provided by Hanson to the Department over the past year; all of which confirms that safe operations can continue at this quarry. Senator Santarsiero's sole interest is to close the quarry no matter how Hanson responds to the Department's request for additional information as to proposed operations.

Finally, Senator Santarsiero references that the residents are anxious to have resolution on the future of the quarry but fails to reference the same anxiousness by Hanson. A quarry has operated on this property for over 100 years and Hanson has a significant investment in the business it runs at this location. Hanson remains committed to being a responsible operator and will continue to work with DEP to resume mining activities at the Rock Hill Quarry in a manner that is safe for its employees and the surrounding community.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RW Gundlach, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Robert W. Gundlach, Jr.

cc: (all via email and regular mail)
Senator Steven J. Santarsiero
John J. Stefanko, Deputy Secretary
Craig S. Lambeth, Esquire Department Counsel
Richard E. Tallman, PE, Environmental Engineer
Andrew J. Gutshall, PG, Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania LLC
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