



## County of Bucks

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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*County Commissioners*  
DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, LCSW, *Chair*  
ROBERT J. HARVIE JR., *Vice Chair*  
GENE DIGIROLAMO

BRIAN HESSENTHALER  
*Chief Operating Officer*

February 19, 2020

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary  
Department of Health  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

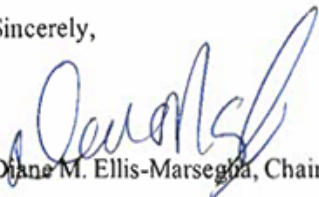
Mr. Patrick McDonnell, Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania


On behalf of the residents of East Rockhill Township, we, the Bucks County Board of Commissioners, are calling on you to use the powers of your offices to permanently close the operations at the Rockhill Quarry in Perkasio. This quarry, which saw minimal, if any, operations for decades, presents too great of a health risk to the surrounding community due to the presence of naturally occurring asbestos.

As noted in the February 7, 2020, letter from Deputy Health Secretary Raphael Barishansky to the Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, operations at facilities in Ambler, PA, and Belvedere Mountain, Vermont, where asbestos fibers were present, have been prohibited. The letter also notes that naturally occurring asbestos should "be avoided and left alone." The letter goes on to state that "[a]ny mechanized activity or kinetic energy that makes physical contact with geologic formations that contain asbestos" will accelerate the weathering process and thereby increase the presence of airborne asbestos fibers.

While the letter from Deputy Secretary Barishansky goes on to state that more data is needed to determine the true risks to workers at the quarry and citizens in the surrounding community, we feel that the risk to both of those populations is too great to allow operations at the quarry to continue. As leaders of a county which has been the home of many heavy industries in its long, proud history, we know the true effects of exposure to materials like asbestos on human beings. These risks, which are well-known and established, are so serious that we feel the Commonwealth must take action and permanently prohibit operations at the Rockhill Quarry.

Sincerely,

  
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, Chair

  
Robert J. Harvie Jr., Vice Chair

  
Gene DiGirolamo