



September 28, 2022

The Honorable Ramez Ziadeh, P.E.
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Acting Secretary Ziadeh,

As you are aware, there was a brush fire at the Rockhill Quarry the evening of August 19, 2022. On behalf of our community, REPA would like to express our serious concerns regarding lack of security and safety measures on this site. As you know, REPA has expressed its concerns to the DEP for the last three years about the health risks posed to our community by the ASBESTOS in the Rockhill Quarry.

Chief Dickinson from the Pennridge Regional Police Department shared that on August 19, 2022 the police department and fire department were dispatched to the Rockhill Quarry at 10:00pm. Officers arrived on the scene and found fire. They had to gain access to the quarry by removing the lock and chain to allow the fire apparatus to enter. The fire was extinguished by the fire departments by using multiple all terrain vehicles. There was a subsequent investigation resulting in three parties being investigated and charged with reckless burning and trespassing.

Based upon REPA's understanding from East Rockhill Township, minors entered the site on ATV's and started a bonfire which ultimately got out of control. At least six local fire departments as well as numerous police officers and others were dispatched to assist Perkasio Fire Company with the brush fire.



Photo Credit: Perkasio Fire Company No. 1

REPA has called on PA DEP, not simply to shut down the Rockhill Quarry but, first and foremost, to fulfill its responsibility to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvania citizens. DEP's Mission Statement clearly states its "its mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment."

It has been known for some time that this site is used by people (many of them minors) for ATV's and other recreational activities. These people are not only able to enter this site, but may be unaware of the risk. *In addition to using a monitoring program that effectively dilutes the measured concentrations of asbestos, Hanson is failing to fulfill its responsibility to maintain a secure site.*

Studies have shown that ATV's generate a significant amount of dust and have a particularly negative effect on minors. See *EPA Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment Report* released on May 1, 2008 (The data shows that the activities which typically create the most soil disturbance and dust, motorcycling, ATV driving/riding, and SUV driving/riding, also release the most asbestos into the breathing zone. Child Exposures tend to be higher than adults); D. Hernandez and B. G. Erskine, 2021, *Analysis of Personal Exposure Monitoring Data for Naturally Occurring Asbestos at the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, Sunol, California* (the highest average concentration for the open-air ATVs significantly exceeds all other categories. This should be expected: ATVs create a backdraft that directs dust into the vehicle seating space, and at the CDRP site, were used by NOA monitors to service a perimeter station located off-site and on an unsurfaced serpentinite unit).

When Hanson personnel are scheduled to be on site at the Quarry for any reason, such as recently to conduct asbestos testing, they must abide by certain parameters such as a maximum 15-mph speed limit, inspectors on site, and more. They should be trained and have a dust control plan they are supposed to follow. The minors entering the site due to the lack of security measures have none of this.

How can Hanson be trusted to potentially operate in accordance with strict safety guidelines if it does not even appear to be able or willing to implement minimal security and safety measures for our community?

On behalf of our community, we are pleading with you (once again) to PROTECT US.

Respectfully yours,
Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc. (REPA)

cc: The Honorable Thomas Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Representative PA-01
The Honorable Steven Santarsiero, 10th Senatorial District
The Honorable Craig Staats, PA's 145th Legislative District
The Honorable Robert Harvie, Jr., Chair, Bucks County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Vice Chair, Bucks County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Gene DiGirolamo, Secretary, Bucks County Board of Commissioners
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township Manager
Chief Paul T. Dickinson Jr., Chief of Police, Pennridge Regional Police Department
Ms. Megan Banis-Clemens, Pennridge School District, School Board Member

Mr. Todd Hippauf, Quakertown Community School District, School Board Member
Mr. Scott Bergey, Upper Bucks Christian School Administrator