

From: **Sharon Furlong**

Date: Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:30 AM

Subject: Rockhill quarry

To: <wdanowski@pa.gov>

Good morning.

I am writing to you both as a concerned resident of Bucks County as well as Spokesperson for Bucks Environmental Action, a group of over 700 people interested and active in Local, State and Regional environmental issues and concerns.

It is our strong belief that the situation in the Rockhill Quarry warrants the immediate and permanent closure of this Quarry due to the established, uncontested presence of asbestos at the site. The presence of this material, deemed unsafe to even ride a bicycle over due to the spread of toxic particles from actions as benign as that, is right now closed but not barred from future reopening considerations. We believe this is intolerable and that the Quarry be permanently closed, thus preventing future activity that would provide immediate harm to workers and residents.

The operator granted the contract to create a large quarry concern, including an asphalt production project, has bowed out of the contract (after losing the right to open an asphalt plant in a recent court ruling). However, this recent development does not preclude the owners of the site itself from seeking another operator or beginning its own production plans. Removal of the Quarry from this potential scenario can only be achieved by permanent closure which could be accomplished swiftly by your office. Extensions of time allowed for further testing by the site owner have been granted by the DEP, which we also strongly believe should never have occurred, considering that the testing already used has been strongly and thoroughly criticized by an expert for being the wrong kind of testing for the type of asbestos discovered (amongst other technical criticisms). In essence, this keeps the possibility of a fully active Quarry dangerously alive, when, if public safety and health is to be taken seriously, would be a direct threat to that safety and health. Further testing will not undo the incontrovertible fact of the presence of asbestos....so why grant the extension? This is both Illogical, and intolerable.

Please make the closure of Rockhill Quarry permanent. The safety and health of workers and residents, both those alive and those to come in future generations, demand this action. Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Yours,

Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson
Bucks Environmental Action