

CONSERVATION VOTERS OF

To the Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania:

We are writing to you today in regards to the Rockhill Quarry located in East Rockhill Township, Bucks County. It is our belief that operations should permanently cease at this site.

In a letter written to the Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc. (REPA) on February 7, 2020, the PA Department of Health shared that the Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) at the Rockhill Quarry site "should be avoided and left alone" and that it would be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the residents if it were to be disturbed in any way. PADOH further stated: "Avoid blasting it, crushing it, or grinding it up. Especially avoid digging, transporting and/or gardening in areas in which NOA has been detected or suspected to be present."

The East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors, Bucks County Commissioners, State Senator Steven Santarseiro, State Representative Craig Staats, and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick have all formally called for a closure of the quarry; furthermore, in response to the DOH letter aforementioned, Senator Santarseiro responded "how could anyone reasonably argue that operating an active quarry there should be allowed?" The answer is that you can't. This quarry puts the health and well being of residents in the area under constant threat.

The attempts by Lehigh Hanson Quarries - the owner of the Rockhill Quarry - to dismiss the hazards raise even more alarming concerns for the health and safety of the East Rockhill community. REPA's expert geologist, Dr. Bradley Erskine, has issued several reports indicating that the methodologies for test results submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environment by Lehigh Hanson Quarries have not been in conformance with universally recognized standards of practice for asbestos testing. Dr. Erskine is a Professional Geologist and Cal/OSHA Certified Asbestos Consultant with 33 years of expertise in Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) for federal, municipal, and private-sector clients. Dr. Erskine's reports for the Rockhill Quarry can be found here: <https://rockhillpa.org/asbestos-update/>.

Lehigh Hanson Quarries continues to rely on sampling and testing methods criticized by Dr. Erskine despite Dr. Erskine's comments that: "repeated deviations from test methods, misinterpretation of data, and under reporting of asbestos levels significantly increases the risk of exposure for workers, residents and [more than 11,600] school children to a known and dangerous carcinogen." The testing for asbestos at the Rockhill Quarry is a major concern for the residents of East Rockhill Township, and a recent request by the Quarry owner for a nine-month extension delivered only four days before the deadline is not acceptable. Based on the information provided, REPA concluded the reasons given for the extension have no merit and requested that PADEP not accept the extension. East Rockhill Township also opposed Hanson's request.

While the PADEP did not accept the requested extension of nine months, they did allow for an extension for a shorter time period. The extension will not change the fact that all testing has identified NOA at the Rockhill Quarry. PADEP, PADOH and even the quarry owner, through its consultant EARTHRES, have all agreed that asbestos is present at the site. Further testing will not change the existence of NOA.

Conservation Voters of PA stand firm in our commitment to protect Pennsylvanians constitutional rights in the commonwealth to clean air and a healthy environment. With the understanding of the present danger at hand, it's irresponsible to allow the quarry operation in East Rockhill Township, Bucks County to continue. We thank you for your work during these uncertain times, and hope that you will use the powers afforded to you in order to shut down this quarry.

Respectfully,

Conservation Voters of PA