



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Secretary Jessica Shirley  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Secretary Shirley,

We have reviewed the most recent status report filed with the Environmental Hearing Board in the NPDES permit appeal at EHB Docket No. 2018-128-CS, and are deeply concerned by the ongoing delays by Heidelberg in providing needed information.

Despite repeated requests for additional information, the DEP has not received sufficient responses, and Heidelberg continues to delay. Why is DEP allowing these repeated extensions, which have now dragged on for years? It is unacceptable that, after all this time, DEP still does not have the necessary information to move forward with a proper evaluation.

We have brought this delay tactic to your attention in the past outside of the NPDES Permit concern. The PA DEP mining permit review process has been ongoing for more than SEVEN years. PA DEP has granted Heidelberg at least eight extensions, despite Heidelberg's repeated failure to adequately respond to PADEP's deficiency notices. By repeatedly extending deadlines, PA DEP has given Heidelberg more than ample opportunity "to make sure Heidelberg's Quarry operations comply with Pennsylvania environmental statutes and the Department's regulations", and ample opportunity to demonstrate that operations will be sufficiently protective of health and safety of residents. Baseline regulatory requirements are not necessarily protective for a major long-term project that involves large quantities of NOA-containing rock. We could share more, but please reference our concerns [supported by Senator Steve Santarsiero](#) as well as [Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick](#).

We urge you to clarify what specific actions are being taken to follow up on these outstanding issues specific to the NPDES Permit. Given these ongoing gaps and delays, we strongly believe that this permit should **not be allowed to proceed further**.

We would like to additionally add another point regarding the site of the Rockhill Quarry. It is clear, after six years of investigation, that NOA is prevalent in the Rockhill Quarry. Repeated testing has confirmed that evidence. After multiple requests DEP has never provided scientific evidence that any amount of asbestos is safe. It is time for DEP to permanently close the Rockhill Quarry to protect the residents, the students and the workers that will have exposure to the NOA.

We appreciate your attention to this serious matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully yours,

Rockhill Environmental Preservation Alliance, Inc. (REPA)

cc: The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Jarrett Coleman, 16<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

The Honorable Steven Santarsiero, 10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Representative PA-01

The Honorable Craig Staats, PA's 145<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Deputy Secretary Greg Kauffman, Governor's Office of  
Legislative Affairs

Deputy Secretary John Stefanko, PA-DEP Office of Active and  
Abandoned Mine Operations

The Honorable Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Chair, Bucks County Board  
of Commissioners

The Honorable Robert Harvie, Jr., Vice Chair, Bucks County  
Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Gene DiGirolamo, Bucks County Board of  
Commissioners

Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township Manager

Kelly Harper, Pennridge School District, Director of Operations

Todd Hippauf, Quakertown Community School District, School  
Board President

Daniel Koury, PADEP