

BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

271 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4276

1717 LANGHORNE-NEWTOWN RD.
SUITE 225
LANGHORNE, PA 19047
(215) 579-8102



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 10, 2025

Jessica Shirley
Acting Secretary
PA Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Acting Secretary Shirley,

I am writing to express my continued concern regarding the Rockhill Quarry located in East Rockhill, PA. Since 2018, operations at the Quarry have been halted following the discovery of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) particles on the site. In light of this, I would like to reiterate that, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's recommendations, the most prudent course of action in handling NOA is to avoid disturbing the particles and to minimize any potential exposure altogether.

The quarry's proximity to a nearby elementary school and residential neighborhoods amplifies the risks to public health. Should operations resume, residents and children in the community would be exposed to a known carcinogen, posing a grave threat to their health and well-being. As you know, I have persistently engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on this matter, urging them to review the geological tests previously submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the context of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Given the ongoing risks associated with NOA, I have called for the permanent closure of the quarry, as it is clear that the spread of NOA cannot be mitigated effectively.

In light of these compelling concerns, I am echoing my previous call to the EPA to take decisive action to ensure the indefinite closure of the Rockhill Quarry and ask that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection give full consideration to this recommendation, prioritizing the safety and health of the surrounding community.

If further information or assistance is required, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 215-579-8102. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Fitzpatrick". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian K. Fitzpatrick (PA-1)
Member of Congress