

# Plant work goes on

Ruling doesn't  
halt construction

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FRANKLIN — Construction on a new asphalt plant near Barkeyville will continue while a judge considers evidence to stop the work.

Venango County Judge William F. Morgan on Friday issued a continuance instead of a restraining order to Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. That company is building an asphalt plant at the Barkeyville Industrial Park.

Residents Joe Jenkins, Randy and Sandy Martin, William Coursen and Carol Hutchinson, asked for a restraining order to stop the construction. Last week in Barkeyville about 120 people attended a state hearing on the plant, with the majority of the residents present opposing the plans.

The judge granted the continuance for 15 days, during which construction will continue, according to Jenkins. He's not only disappointed, but "amazed," about the judge's decision, he said.

"It's going full steam ahead," he said.

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Jenkins and the other residents filed an appeal with the zoning board trying to stop the development on Feb. 21.

In their request for the restraining order, they cite the state municipal planning code which calls for any development under appeal to be stopped until the appeal is heard.

Jenkins said he doesn't understand how further development is allowed under those rules.

George Thompson of Franklin, who is the attorney for Hawbaker Inc., was not available Friday for comment.

Hawbaker bought 27 acres and would become the second tenant of the industrial park. Construction began on the plant in early February.

Hawbaker Inc. plans to build a hot mix asphalt plant which will produce up to 560,000 tons of asphalt per year. The plant will burn coal to provide heat for drying the wet asphalt mixture.