

Asphalt plant air quality will be discussed

Barkeyville is proposed site

By KRIS MILLER
Eagle Staff Writer

BARKEYVILLE — Residents on Thursday night can learn more about air quality issues related to a proposed asphalt plant in Barkeyville.

Owner Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. of Bellfonte will reveal a draft of the air quality plan during a hearing Thursday at the Barkeyville Borough Building. The state Department of Environmental Protection will be at the meeting to answer questions from the public.

It will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at 5404 Pittsburgh Rd.

The asphalt plant would be at 1041 Stevenson Road in Harrisville, the second tenant of the Barkeyville Industrial Park.

The company has bought 27 acres from the Oil Regional Alliance, an economic development group that owns the land in the 126-acre industrial park, said Leanne Stearns, borough council president. Team Hardinger Transportation, a company that employs between 20 and 30 people, was the first to open in the park about five months ago.

Hawbaker Inc. has stated the number of employees at the asphalt plant could grow to 150 people in a few years, Stearns said.

Hawbaker Inc. plans to build a hot mix asphalt plant on the property, according to its application to the DEP. The plant will burn oil, natural gas or propane to provide heat for drying the wet asphalt mixture.

There will be a 140 by 80 foot building to house a truck maintenance garage and office on the site. A wall will be built to surround the plant, with six foot trees planted around the perimeter.

An estimated 200 to :800 trucks will enter and exit the plant each week, according to Stearns. The company hopes to build an access road from the site to Routes 8 and 208 which run close by, she said.

Since the DEP will monitor the air quality around the plant and shut it down if it does not comply with standards, Stearns said she isn't concerned about the company's plans.

The borough didn't have to approve the company's application because the zoning already allows the plant.

Thursday's meeting is for

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Residents to speak with Hawbaker and with DEP representatives, according to a DEP news release.

"The applicant will be there to provide information about the proposed asphalt plant," said regional director Kelly Burch in a news release.

Copies of the application and the DEP's analysis are

available at the DEP Northwest Regional Office at 230 Chestnut St. in Meadville. To view the documents, contact the DEP at 814-332-6340 to schedule an appointment.

These documents also are available at the borough council office through the council president at 814-786-9639 and the mayor at 814-786-7519, the news release states.

For information or to regis-

ter to testify at the hearing, contact George Monasky at 814-332-6636 or at gmonasky@state.pa.us.

Written comments will be accepted through March 23 and should be sent to: George Monasky, New Source Review Section, Air Quality Program, DEP Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA 16335.