

## QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEARING WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Good Evening Ladies and Gentleman -- For those of you who do not know me, my name is Bill Coursen. I have been a life-long resident of Barkeyville Borough except for the years that I served in the United States Army. I would like to thank Mr. George Monasky and the DEP for considering this important enough to grant our request for a public hearing. We appreciate the fact that you are taking time away from your families to field our questions and listen to our concerns and comments.

As most of you know, some citizens of Barkeyville Borough are exercising our legal right to file an appeal from the decision of the Zoning Officer to grant a permit to Hawbaker Industries, Inc., so my questions and comments may be irrelevant because we believe that we will prevail by requiring literal and legal compliance with Section 303.1 (5) of the Barkeyville Zoning Ordinances. I believe, however, it is important for us to go on the record with the DEP with our concerns and sentiments about a coal-fired asphalt plant in this small community.

When considering whether to grant or deny an application for permit such as the Hawbaker Hot Asphalt Plant, do you factor in the emissions of the hundreds of trucks as they haul raw material in and finished product out of the facility and while they sit with engines idling waiting to be loaded and unloaded?

A 1990 PennDot study states that 18,000 was the average daily traffic on I-80 through Barkeyville and the Route 208 intersection and Route 8 North to I-80 added another 7,800 ADT through Barkeyville. So, more than 25,000 vehicles traveled through Barkeyville each day, many of these being diesel fueled trucks. The PennDot study, which was part of the 1994 Barkeyville Borough Comprehensive Plan, states that these flows are among the highest in the County. Sixteen years later, it is a safe assumption that the traffic count has increased. Is this concentration of auto and diesel emissions factored in when issuing a DEP air quality permit or is the permitting process based merely on the merits of the information provided by the applicant?

If, in fact, the consideration does not factor in the cumulative concentration, we ask the DEP to delay further consideration of the application until a thorough study and evaluation can be made.

In a discussion with Mr. Chris Trostle of the Department of Environmental Protection in Harrisburg, we were informed that DEP is familiar with the issues this community is facing with the high concentration of diesel fumes and was aware of the possibility of an asphalt plant locating here. In fact, the problem with diesel emissions is so severe throughout PA that one of the central counties of the state recently petitioned DEP to conduct a comprehensive study on diesel emissions, which will be presented on Monday, March 12. In addition, a private consulting firm confirmed the findings of the DEP study. Barkeyville Borough now has the prospect of a coal-burning asphalt plant exacerbating the existing problem of the high concentration of diesel emissions.

How frequently would DEP monitor emissions from the facility? We assume the DEP will not monitor emissions 24/7 and that it is an honor system? Must the residents of Barkeyville Borough then become the eyes and ears of the DEP? Should we establish a citizens watch group to monitor the facility's activity and report to DEP any activity that does not appear to comport to DEP regulations?

Based on our research, it would be fair to state that there are no positive health affects from an asphalt plant -- there are only "acceptable risks." "Acceptable risks" meaning that a certain number of people may get sick from exposure to certain emissions and a certain number of people may die -- that's "acceptable risks."