



JOSEPH JENKINS, INC.

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**STATEMENT MADE TO THE PA DEP BY JOE JENKINS AT THE BARKEYVILLE PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 8, 2007 IN REFERENCE TO: PLAN APPROVAL # 61-210A - GLEN O. HAWBAKER, INC.**

Thank you for having this Public Hearing and for allowing the people of Barkeyville to speak. Five minutes is not enough time to address the important issue of air pollution in any detail, so I will briefly touch upon the salient points and leave the details for a written statement that I will send by mail.

There are four issues that I would like to focus upon.

#1) The first is the issue of whether the Hawbaker facility can be legally located within the Barkeyville Borough limits. I know this issue is not within the jurisdiction of the DEP, but this is an important issue that the DEP should be aware of.

According to our Zoning Ordinance,

No structure shall be located [in Barkeyville] if it emit[s] any noxious, toxic or corrosive fumes or gases [or] offensive odors...pollution of air by fly-ash, dust, vapors or other substances [that are] harmful to health, or to animals, vegetation or other property.

This Zoning Ordinance is not a recommendation — it is the law of the land.

It is, in fact, an embarrassment that we are even here tonight. Barkeyville has already established its own protections against air pollution through its Zoning Ordinance. We shouldn't be in the position where we're forced to get on our knees in front of the DEP and beg them to protect us from the air pollution from an asphalt plant.

What we're witnessing here tonight is the failure of our local government. They have failed to protect the interests of the tax-paying citizens of Barkeyville. And when we, the citizens, have stepped forward to try to understand the air pollution issues and to try to rectify the problem, we've been met with disdain, disrespect and even outright rudeness from some of our own representatives.

Thank God it's an election year.

My prediction is that the Barkeyville Borough Council will be showing a number of new faces after November. And I predict that those faces will belong to people who actually respect our Zoning Ordinance. When that time comes, any industry within the Borough will be subject to a \$500/day fine plus Court costs should they violate the law of the land and emit noxious fumes for our residents to breathe, whether that have a DEP permit or not. A DEP permit will not vacate our local ordinance.

The DEP should be aware that the Borough Zoning Permit for the Hawbaker facility has been formally appealed by a group of local citizens. No DEP air pollution permit should be forthcoming until the appeals process has been played out in its entirety and a decision rendered on the legality of the Hawbaker Zoning Permit.

#2. Any DEP permit regarding air pollution in Barkeyville should take into consideration the overall air pollution that already exists in the Borough and the cumulative effect of any additional air pollution. The Hawbaker facility would not be the only source of air pollution in Barkeyville. We already have significant air pollution caused by diesel trucks, for example. How would an asphalt facility contribute to Barkeyville's overall air pollution burden? To separate out the asphalt facility as if it were the only source of air pollution in the area, and then establish a permit based only on the asphalt production criteria would be extremely unwise.

#3. Speaking of diesel truck emissions, diesel fumes are extremely dangerous to health. It's estimated that cancer risks from diesel emissions are about ten times higher than the cancer risks from all other hazardous air pollutants combined. The Hawbaker facility would not be just an asphalt plant — it would essentially be a huge, new trucking and shipping depot in Barkeyville, bringing an estimated additional 51,000 diesel trucks into the Borough every year. What are the air pollution implications of this greatly increased truck traffic? How can an air pollution permit be granted to any facility of this nature without taking into consideration all associated air pollutants caused, directly or indirectly, by the facility? Certainly, an air pollution permit cannot be issued until there is a full study of all the sources of air pollution that would be associated with this asphalt plant, including diesel emissions.

#4. Finally, let me say this. Many of the people who live around here, including myself, have established our roots here. We've bought our land, built our houses with our own hands, planted our orchards and gardens, raised our children and grandchildren and eeked out a living in these rolling, wooded hills. Ours are not necessarily glamorous lives. We are not necessarily wealthy. But our lives are rich with family and land that is fertile and beautiful. We've established over generations, homes and families that we can be proud of. Our futures remain here in northwestern Pennsylvania. We are not going to be sentenced to a life of breathing toxic air pollution just so a wealthy company can make more money. We will not accept the obvious choice: to either live with toxic air pollution or pull up our roots and move away. We're staying, and we will fight this thing as long as is necessary to protect our community.

Let me finish by quoting a citizen in Mason County, North Carolina who now lives with an asphalt plant nearby.

"Nothing could have prepared us for the horrors of that plant; we cannot be outside when it operates, we are prisoners."

Is this what we really want for Barkeyville? To be prisoners in our own community?

Thank you,

Joe Jenkins