

LETTERS

Asphalt plant means lots of problems for Barkeyville

Editor:

As a Barkeyville Borough property owner with a business in the borough, I have been wondering how I can thank the Venango County Planning Commission for locating a hot mix asphalt (HMA) plant in our borough. Some research into the Hawbaker facility's DEP documents, however, reveals the following:

1. The facility will pump over 200 tons of air pollution annually into our borough, a village of 237 people. Gee, thanks.

2. This pollution will include 92 tons of airborne sulfur that our children can smell and breathe for years to come.

3. We will have 11.5 tons of volatile organic compounds, known cancer-causing agents, in our air every year. Venango County is in the top 10 percent of counties in the U.S. for "Cancer Risk Score", according to the EPA. What's one more "cancer cluster" in Barkeyville?

4. Let's not forget the two tons of hazardous air pollutants that our elderly and our children can look forward to inhaling every year until they either die or move away.

5. Or the 51,000 trucks that will be required to move the plant's materials in and out of Barkeyville. We already have sig-

nificant diesel exhaust pollution at our location next to Interstate 80. The HMA will add an additional truck passing by every minute, every workday for 52 weeks a year.

6. Goodbye to property values. No one wants to live near a polluting asphalt plant, so we in the borough will be forced to live here while our properties become impossible to sell at fair market value.

7. My sincere gratitude for the seven jobs that will be present at the site, probably transferred from another facility.

Our borough zoning ordinance clearly denies building permits for industries that create air pollution. Yet, our zoning officer issued a permit for this facility in clear violation of our ordinance and in direct opposition to the will of the citizens of Barkeyville. And the Planning Commission patted him on the back. Thanks for doing your homework and for looking out for Barkeyville's best interest.

Anyone who wants to help the citizens of Barkeyville protect their community from pollution can find out more at

protectbarkeyville.org.

— Joseph C. Jenkins
Grove City