

New plant will harm Barkeyville's families

Editor:

Imagine your home, the one you have created a life in, the memories that have evolved out of those four walls. Some good and others not so good, but they are still your memories that you created in that home.

Now, imagine losing all of that. Wouldn't you be devastated? Unfortunately this is going to happen to many of the residents of Barkeyville, including me and my entire family.

This borough is the home of Barkeyville Industrial Park. It is located right next to my home of 18 years. This park was created to provide community friendly businesses and also more jobs for the community. However, there are plans for one business that is far from being community friendly: Hawbaker Asphalt Plant. Its size is going to be behemoth, approximately 27 acres.

Barkeyville is already a place that has heavy diesel emissions, so an added plant that is coal fired is not going to help the quality of air. Some of the dangerous toxins that Hawbaker's plant will emit yearly include 29 tons of nitrogen

oxides, 92 tons of sulfur emissions, 11 tons of volatile organic compounds (a.k.a. cancer causing agents), and the list goes on. All these dangerous emissions are going to go straight into the lungs of me, my family and everyone else.

Does this sound even remotely safe? Hardly! The residents of Barkeyville will have to live with these potentially dangerous toxins or else they will be forced to find a new home. For an example, my great grandma is 90 years old; she is not healthy enough to deal with unhealthy air. My little sister is 5 and she is still growing. What are volatile organic compounds going to do to her fragile body?

As you can see, this plant will cause more harm than good. I beseech you for the sake of my family's future to put yourself in the residents' shoes. Would you want this toxic plant to be in your backyard? Are a few more jobs worth the decimation of homes and quality of life in Barkeyville?

— Kathleen Martin
Grove City