

LETTERS

Concerns raised about plans in Barkeyville

Editor:

I live on Stevenson Road in Barkeyville. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this area it is where the Barkeyville Industrial Park is being built. Since the start of this project there have been many changes in the lives of the families who live on this road; bright lights at night, loss of privacy, and a great increase in truck traffic. We now may have to add air and noise pollution to the list.

Earlier this month it was brought to my attention there are health and zoning concerns pertaining to one of the businesses wanting to build here. Glen O. Hawbaker Inc. wants to build an asphalt plant that will cover 27 acres and could produce up to 560,000 ton of asphalt per year.

This is where health concerns come in. The DEP says asphalt fumes are known toxins; exposure to these toxins may cause cancer, central nervous system problems, liver damage, respiratory problems and skin irritations. There's also potential water pollution and a decrease in property values.

We'll also have an even greater increase in truck traffic. In order to transport 560,000

ton of asphalt we can anticipate 28 trucks an hour or 1 truck every 2.1 minutes to and from the asphalt plant. It's important that everyone in Barkeyville and surrounding communities be informed to help hold this company to the highest standards.

The other concern is whether the industrial park is zoned for this kind of industry. A former Barkeyville Planning Committee member doesn't believe so. The Barkeyville Industrial Park zoning officer may have made a mistake in issuing a permit to this company.

The industrial park was meant to be community friendly. I think with the above stated information you can see an asphalt plant is anything but community friendly. Let's hope upon review by the zoning officer and the borough solicitor they will see this mistake.

As for the health concerns, we are asking the DEP for a public hearing so these concerns can be heard. I am asking all residents to come together so these health concerns don't become a reality.

— Susie Martin
Barkeyville