

**Press Release: March 1, 2007**

## **Barkeyville Area Citizens Take Action Over Asphalt Plant**

Residents of Barkeyville Borough and surrounding townships concerned about health, air pollution, noise, constant heavy truck traffic, and loss of property value have joined together and taken a number of collective actions to address the issues that surround the potential construction of a large Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) plant on Stevenson Road in Barkeyville Borough.

### **PETITION**

Nearly 100 residents successfully petitioned the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for an extension of the comment period on the Air Quality Permit for the Glen O Hawbaker Inc. asphalt manufacturing plant. The comment period was extended from February 12 to March 23, 2007. The petitioners also included a request for a Public Hearing regarding the same permit, in order to allow local citizens to comment and give formal testimony in an informative community atmosphere. The Hearing request was also granted and will be held on March 8 at 7 PM in the Barkeyville Borough Building in the old school house on route 8 in the center of Barkeyville. The Hearing is open to all persons who have interests or concerns regarding this major development.

According to the Air Quality Permit application on file with the DEP, the plant will produce up to 560, 000 tons of asphalt per year. Heating, crushing, storing, conveying and loading the materials will emit from 200 – 1500 tons of pollutants into the surrounding atmosphere each year of operation. The plant proponents intend to burn coal as the primary fuel for production. Diesel emissions in the form of smoke, soot and toxics (resulting from delivery of the raw materials and finished product), will also add to the pollution burden.

### **LEGAL ACTION**

Smokestack industries are not permitted by the Barkeyville Zoning Ordinance, and a number of residents have challenged the legality of the zoning permit. The Hearing Board has not responded to the appeal at this time. The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council is to be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at the Borough Building. The public is encouraged to attend.

### **RESEARCH / WEBSITE**

A collaborative effort by the local citizens to study the impacts of this plant has resulted in a wealth of published information and a website devoted to the asphalt plant issue. The non profit public information site: [www.protectbarkeyville.org](http://www.protectbarkeyville.org) is being updated daily with health studies, ordinances, DEP, EPA, PA and Borough documents, the Hawbaker permit application, citizens' letters, media coverage and links to related sites on the internet.

For more information about these activities, contact:

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