

Franklin, PA News Herald
March 27, 2007

Zoning law broken in Barkeyville

Editor:

There have been several articles concerning the proposed coal-fired asphalt plant in Barkeyville, several letters to the editor and two meetings in Barkeyville. There also is a Web site where people can go to read the facts.

Most people do not realize the zoning law was broken. For industrial use, it states: "It shall not emit any noxious, toxic or corrosive fumes or gases, nor shall it emit any offensive odors." For air pollution, it states: "No pollution of air by fly-ash, dust, vapors or other substances shall be permitted which is harmful to health or to animals, vegetation or other property."

Why was zoning officer Gary Dovey allowed to grant a permit on Dec. 31, 2006 (a Sunday), which was not in accordance with the law. Why was he allowed to break the law? His job is to make sure the law is conformed to.

He resigned a few weeks later.

The county commissioners do not seem to care the law was broken but only seem interested in a few seasonal jobs. That was their response to me.

No reply was the response from my state representative, my U.S. representative and both U.S. senators. And that was after several e-mails and phone calls.

My state senator did contact me about when the Barkeyville hearings were scheduled, but that was all she said.

At a meeting in Barkeyville, the Oil Region Alliance cronies only seemed concerned about their children moving out of state. They all seemed to enjoy that the law is being broken. My statement to them is: "Break the law in your own neighborhood."

What are they trying to tell us in Barkeyville? That we should take matters into our own hands?

— Terence A Coursen
Barkeyville