

B-12



BCPC

Bucks County Planning Commission

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July 10, 2020

Mr. James Nilsen, Chairman
Springfield Township Board of Supervisors
1636 Pleasant View Road
Coopersburg, PA 18036

RE: Proposal for G-7 Conditional Use Application by H&K Group - Center Valley Materials

Dear Chairman Nilsen:

Through concerned citizen outreach to Commissioner Chair Diane Marseglia's office, we have become aware of the H&K Group proposal to develop a quarry south of Springfield Street. As you are aware, Bucks County is currently constructing the Upper Bucks Rail Trail within the SEPTA-owned right-of-way, which is adjacent to, and west of, the proposed quarry site. Both Springfield and Richland townships have signed leases with SEPTA for the purpose of establishing the trail, and have also signed a maintenance agreement with Bucks County for providing limited maintenance of the trail. We believe both the County and Springfield Township have a vested interest in the development of the quarry and any potential impacts to the use and operation of the new rail trail.

Based on our review of the publicly available documents on the Springfield Township website, we are writing to express our concerns with the proposed quarry as it relates to the use and operation of the rail trail. Our concerns include the potential for blasting at the quarry while trail users are in the area, air quality, and potential affects to wetlands.

As required by Section 404.G.(7)(a)1.b. of the zoning ordinance, appropriate warning signs shall be mounted or posted at intervals of not more than 100 feet. However, as the railroad corridor and trail is below the grade of the proposed site, and the proposed berms, consideration should be given to placing warning signage along the trail as it approaches the quarry site in both directions. Signs alerting trail users to the quarry and its operations, should note the potential for blasting, dust, and noise. An audible signal may also be helpful to alert trail users when blasting is in process.

Secondly, there is the likelihood and possibility that the quarry will create dust. This dust could negatively affect the air quality for trail users. The plans do indicate some placement of berms that may provide a buffer, but these berms are not possible in all locations along the trail due to wetland concerns on the quarry site. We are hoping the issue of air quality and dust control can be addressed when the conditional use hearing is conducted. We do recognize that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will also require an air quality permit as part of the quarry permitting process at the state level.



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Lastly, we have concerns for the hydrological function of the wetlands in this area of the trail and the boardwalk we are constructing to cross them. Given the presence of wetlands on the proposed quarry site, as well as along the rail corridor, a thorough hydrologic study should be completed to ensure that these important environmental features are not negatively impacted through changes to the topography, water table, or underlying adjacent geologic features.

Please note that if the application for conditional use is approved, we will provide a full review of the land development plans once they are officially submitted to the township.

Should you have any questions regarding our concerns, please contact me directly at 215-345-3401, or estone@buckscounty.org.

Sincerely,

Bucks County Planning Commission



Evan J. Stone, PLA
Executive Director

cc: Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, Chair, Bucks County Commissioner
Robert J. Harvie Jr., Vice Chair, Bucks County Commissioner
Gene DiGirolamo, Bucks County Commissioner
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