

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed reopening of the coal mine because of its extraordinary proximity to an established residential community of approximately 850+ residents located less than 0.4 miles from the proposed mining operation. In the Phoenixville Heights development.

This is not an isolated industrial site. It is immediately adjacent to a community where people live, raise families, attend school, work, and own homes. The potential impacts of renewed mining therefore deserve an exceptionally high level of scrutiny.

The PATER report itself identifies several environmental and public-health risks that must be considered when evaluating energy-site redevelopment, including air quality, public health impacts, mine subsidence, groundwater contamination, flooding, water-resource competition, and regulatory requirements involving air, water, wastewater, waste management, and land use. The report also makes clear that future operational impacts require project-specific environmental review and were not fully evaluated in the preliminary assessment.

For a project located less than 0.4 miles from approximately 850+ residents, these are not abstract concerns.

Residents should not be expected to accept the potential consequences of renewed mining without compelling, site-specific evidence demonstrating that their homes, health, drinking water, property, roads, and quality of life will be adequately protected.

At a minimum, the following questions must be fully answered before this project is permitted:

- What will be the impact on air quality and particulate matter at nearby residences?
- Could mining activities affect groundwater, private wells, springs, or nearby surface waters?
- What is the risk of mine subsidence or ground movement affecting homes, roads, utilities, and other structures?
- What levels of noise, vibration, blasting, and heavy-truck traffic will residents experience?
- How will mine waste, drainage, and any existing contamination be managed?
- What will the long-term reclamation and closure obligations be?
- What financial guarantees will ensure that residents and taxpayers are not left responsible for environmental or structural problems?
- What independent monitoring will be conducted, and will residents have access to the results?

The PATER report specifically recognizes that community acceptance is an important consideration and that perceived environmental, public-health, and economic impacts can influence permitting and project feasibility.

This community is not asking that economic development be rejected simply because it is inconvenient. We are asking that the government recognize the unique circumstances of placing a coal-mining operation within less than four-tenths of a mile of 850+ residents.

The burden should not fall on those residents to prove that mining will harm them after operations begin. The appropriate question is whether the applicant can demonstrate beforehand, through rigorous and independent site-specific analysis, that the project can operate without imposing unacceptable risks on this community.

Until those questions are answered with credible evidence and enforceable protections, I respectfully ask that the proposed reopening not be approved.

The economic benefits of reopening a mine must be weighed against the permanent responsibility we have to protect the health, safety, homes, property, and quality of life of the people who already live here.

850 residents should not have to become the buffer zone for a new coal-mining operation.

Thank you for considering the concerns of our community.

Respectfully,

Devin Flanagan