

# Jefferson County Foundation, Inc.

June 23, 2021

Jeremy W Bandy  
Acting Deputy Director  
Division of Water And Waste Management- Environmental Enforcement,  
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
601 57th Street S.E.  
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Via email [jeremy.w.bandy@wv.gov](mailto:jeremy.w.bandy@wv.gov)

Re: Rockwool Urgent Stormwater Concerns

Dear Mr. Bandy,

We hope you are well.

Recently Rockwool posted two videos on its Facebook page. These videos show some concerning stormwater issues. We would like help understanding what is happening at the plant, and for these issues to be immediately addressed. As you know, this is an environmentally sensitive location and hundreds of people in the immediate area rely on the groundwater in this location for all purposes.

There are several screenshots from the video attached here and they are numbered 1 through 7. One image from the state road taken by a citizen is also attached. The full length video can be viewed on Rockwool's Facebook page at the following link.  
<https://www.facebook.com/ROCKWOOLRansonCommunity/videos/350501166471066>

In screenshot 1 and 6, what appears to be a boom can be seen in the Stormwater Basin Number 1. Why has this boom been deployed in this pond?

In screenshot 1, 2, 6, and 7 there is what appears to be a piece of heavy equipment, possibly a backhoe, north of the Stormwater Basin Number 1. This appears to be the location of the underground conveyance from this pond to outlet number 001. Further, there appears to be a large area of ground disturbance in this location. What is this piece of equipment doing? What occurred to require this work? Why are there no silt barriers between this ground disturbance and either the Stormwater Basin Number 1 or the drop inlet directly to the west of this activity? As you know, this drop inlet carries runoff and any pollutants directly to outlet 001 without treatment before discharge.

In screenshot 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, what appears to be a hose can be seen going from one pond to the other. In screenshot 1, 2, and 3, a pipe or tube can be seen entering the Rainwater for Reuse pond. In all of the screenshots, what appear to be generators or

pumps are on the path of the tube from the Rainwater for Reuse Pond. What is occurring here? In a photo taken from a citizen from the state road on June 13, 2021, a tube or pipe can be seen coming from the forebay of Stormwater Basin Number 1, and a large machine that appears to be either a generator or a pump is sitting just west of the pond and attached to this tube. What is happening here?

In screenshot 4, 5, 6, and 7, the settling pond for the Rainwater for Reuse pond has vehicle tracks where it appears that a vehicle has driven into the settling pond and tracked material out of the pond. The material is tracked onto the grass to the north. This has been done so many times or the tires or tracks were so contaminated that the trails of material reach for dozens to hundreds of feet down the hill. Also, this material seems to have spilled over the curb west of this access road. What is happening here? When it rains will the stormwater from this road run down the hill, entrain these pollutants, and wash them out to the grass where the water will infiltrate and carry these pollutants into the groundwater? As you know, this pond drains the Melt For Reuse area that can be seen in screenshot 5. There is already material in the Melt For Reuse area. Therefore, the water in the settling pond contains the particulate matter and eroded material from the Melt For Reuse that is entrained in the stormwater runoff from that area. As a reminder, this material contains coal, coke, slag and other pollutants. This settling pond also drains the raw material storage and handling area, and contains the entrained pollutants from that area. Thus presumably the material being tracked from this settling pond contains these pollutants. Please help us understand what is happening here and why this is occurring.

In screenshot 7, Outlet 001 can be seen. What are we seeing at Outlet number 001 and what is happening here? This outlet is supposed to have a level spreader. Also, there appears to be a gully leading away from the outlet. Please help us understand what is happening at Outlet number 001.

The most recent record of a site inspection that we are able to find on the Application Xtender is from over a year ago. Why has this facility not been inspected in over a year?

We noted on the Application Xtender that communication with the public regarding Rockwool was posted but no recent communications with Rockwool are available there. Why are there no recent communications regarding the facility posted to the Application Xtender? How can the public expect to obtain recent information regarding stormwater issues at this facility?

The Foundation requests that:

- An inspection be performed at the earliest possible time.
- Operation at this facility be immediately stopped until an inspection can be performed and appropriate action be taken.
- The inspection report be made public as soon as possible and at least within one to two days.

- Transparency be improved, and all communications between the DEP and Rockwool regarding this facility be posed to the Application Xtender in a timely fashion.

Regards,

*Christine L Wimer*

Dr. Christine Wimer  
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