

November 1, 2023

To whom it may concern:

This comment is regarding the permit application submitted to the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) by the WV Department of Transportation (WVDOT) to core drill a section of proposed Corridor H east of Parsons, Tucker County, between the intersection of US Rt 219 and Mackeyville Road north to Tucker County High School. As I understand, an alternate route north of this one is under consideration. As a West Virginia citizen, I favor a northern route, one that would be far less likely to cause short- and long-term environmental and ascetic damage to National Forest lands, State Park lands and the towns of Thomas and Davis.

As a professional geologist, I understand that core drilling is necessary to gain detailed knowledge of the soils and bedrock geology for design and construction of the road. However, I find it unacceptable that WVDOT wants to pursue that detailed work on the current route before consideration of the northern route is fully vetted. It is wasteful to do so when the Corridor may never be built along this path. It will also result in unnecessary disturbance of National Forest lands for road and drill site construction.

WVDOT professional staff have sufficient knowledge of the soils and bed rock geology in the proposed permit gleaned from drilling, design, and construction of Corridor H previously constructed in this same part of the geologic section. In addition, the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES) (<https://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/>) has available newly published geologic maps (1:24,000 scale) of this area. This level of knowledge and information should suffice until a final route is chosen.

Nick Fedorko
Professional Geologist
Cove Geological Services
100 Warman Farm Rd
Morgantown, WV 26508

Nick Fedorko

Geologist

100 Warman Farm Rd. Morgantown, WV 26508

phone: (304) 291-4658 cell: (304) 680-3104

email: nick.fedorko@gmail.com

Objective

Contribute to the goals and objectives of anyone in need of technical support regarding the geology of Appalachian Basin strata.

Qualifications

Over 40 years of experience with, and knowledge of the stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Appalachian Basin. Experienced in geologic mapping and resource assessment.

Experienced multi-project manager.
Seasoned money manager.
Skilled team builder and member.
Detail and results oriented.
Effective communicator.

Experience

COVE GEOLOGICAL SERVICES, Morgantown, WV

Sole proprietor, geological consulting company, August 2006 – retired 2020

Summary of expertise:

- Management of drilling project logistics.
- Lithologic and geotechnical core logging.
- Sedimentological, geotechnical, and stratigraphic interpretation of core.
- Geologic supervision of water monitoring well drilling.
- Geologic and mineral resource mapping.
- Geologic property evaluation.
- Preparation of written testimony and appearance in court as an expert witness in legal cases.
- Coal geology short course and core workshop presentation.

WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY, Morgantown, WV

Head of Coal Program, 1989 to July, 2006

- Managed multiple state and federally-funded coal-related research projects.
- Managed the day-to-day operations of the Coal Program:

Coal Geologist, 1975-1989

- Staff coal geologist engaged in mapping and evaluation of coal resources and reserves of West Virginia.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, COAL RESEARCH BUREAU, Morgantown, WV

Lab Technician, 1974-1975

- Performed lab tests in support of research projects designed to enhance utilization of West Virginia coal and mine waste products.

Computer Skills

- Microsoft Office Professional Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access
- ArcMAP, including ArcGIS, ArcView, and Spatial Analyst
- Geographix
- StratiFact and StratiGraphics
- Corpscon coordinate conversion software
- Corel WordPerfect
- Adobe PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Acrobat

Education

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, Morgantown, WV
MS, Geology, 1998

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY, Bethlehem, PA
BA, Geology, 1972

Professional Affiliations

- Registered professional geologist in Pennsylvania, License No. PG001858G (retired status).

Social Media

- See Nick Fedorko profile on LinkedIn.com

Publications and References

- Available on request