

5/23/2009

**Terry Mutchler, Executive Director
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

Re: Right-to-Know Law Request No. 4200-09-020

Dear Mr. Mutchler,

I would like to personally thank you and your office for help regarding the Pottsville District Mining Office and my RTKL Request No. 4200-09-020.

The following is a very brief summation to a complex and corrupt investigation conducted by the PA DEP. Hopefully you can find the time to familiarize yourself with my problem and how the new RTKL is slowly unraveling the corruption.

On January 31, 2003 my home was illegally blasted during a state mandated sewer installation. There were two blasts done on that day less than fifteen feet away from my foundation by Marks Contracting LTD.

My family reported this crime to the Pottsville District Mining Office on January 31, 2003. DEP suspended blasting on that day and started an investigation. The investigation was led by Richard J. Lamkie, Chief Explosives and Safety; Richard Parsons and Dennis Whitaker, Esq.

For the first six months of that investigation DEP claimed that they were investigating our damage claims. The contractor, Marks Contracting LTD lied and denied blasting on that day. DEP never investigated anything and lied to my family.

Months after January 31, 2003 Marks' finally admitted to blasting on that day but to only one of the two blasting sites. They also refused to release the raw blast roll for January 31, 2003. Immediately after that blast I had witnessed what was on that raw blast roll in the seismograph. I reported this several times to DEP.

The attorneys' representing Marks finally released the missing raw blast roll to DEP and I immediately requested a copy of that seismograph roll. DEP agreed but refused to surrender my copy until the investigation was complete.

Years went by and DEP refused to turn over this raw blast roll while trying to alienate themselves from my family. Finally I discovered the RTKL and tried for years to recover this raw blast roll record that I was promised years ago.

DEP and the office of Thomas Callaghan, P.G. made a mockery of this old RTKL; refusing to answer for months while forcing me to write his office time after time; this turned into a part time job for me.

Out of frustration I sent a letter demanding that I be contacted while highlighting the parts previously ignored by Mr. Callaghan in red. In April 5, 2007 I was advised that his

office did not have the record; over four years after I first requested this raw roll blast record.

Realizing that the PA DEP lied once again to me I resubmitted that original request wanting to make sure that DEP did in fact lie to me and that no one outside of his office had this record.

Thanks to the new RTKL within months I have a signed affidavit from Thomas Callaghan, P.G. stating that "...such records do not exist within our agency".

This has had a devastating effect on my family. We have been forced to live in a partially remolded home that was frozen in time because of this corrupt investigation for over six years.

I am not in a financial position to hire an attorney to gather these documents and/or evidence; the bill would have been staggering.

Thank to your office and the new RTKL I should have all the evidence that I need from the PA DEP to hire an attorney for my family.

Please pass this along to the staff of President Barack Obama with my thanks. Without this new RTKL I would have been held hostage by the PA DEP for another six years while trying to unravel their corrupt investigation.

Sincerely,

Steven Dreyer

Enclosures

cc: President Barack Obama
John Hanger, Secretary, PA DEP
David G. Argall, 29th State Senatorial District
Robin M. Hittie, Chief Counsel State Ethics Commission
James P. Goodman, Schuylkill County District Attorney
Adam D. Aichele, Special Agent FBI
Thomas Callaghan, District Mining Manager PA DEP