

[View this email in your browser](#)



PC: Hardlines CA.

Rockwool's first production facility in North America was built in the town of Milton, Ontario. The facility opened in September of 1988 after being purchased as a brownfield site from Lafarge Canada. Problems began to arise shortly after the plant began production. In the mid-1990's, residents filed complaints concerning the pollution and odors that were being emitted from the plant. These complaints were met by assurances by the marketing services manager for Rockwool (formerly known as Roxul), Steve Koch, that "Roxul is environmentally conscious and well below the Ministry of Environment and Energy emissions guidelines" and that nothing "dangerous" is being released from the plant. Residents began to realize if that's true, then the existing guidelines might not be

adequate.

Many residents were finding that on some days the pollution was so bad it put the area in a haze and the smell forced them to stay inside and keep their windows closed. One group of residents tried to find out what exactly was coming out of the smokestacks, but they had little cooperation from the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Mr. Koch assured that they would get to the root of the problem and that “Roxul is committed to achieving a harmonious relationship with its neighbors, as it has at its 18 other factories located in residential areas world-wide.”

In 2007, Roxul announced plans to double the size of the plant to increase production capacity. Many residents found the news of the expansion concerning as Roxul was already ranked as one of the top polluters in Milton by Pollution Watch, a service that helps the public find out who’s polluting in the community. The poor air quality in the area was also being recognized as a health emergency by local officials after data was released by the health department. The studies found that each year, air pollution in the area was contributing to premature deaths, and an increase in emergency room visits and minor illnesses. Despite this pushback, the facility was renovated and expanded in 2008.

As demonstrated by the story of Milton, Ontario, it’s clear that Rockwool’s playbook has remained the same since they first started operations. Locations that are unsuitable for a factory are selected, concerns and pushback from local residents are ignored, and the story that Rockwool is a good neighbor is repeated. For these reasons, it’s important that we continue to hold Rockwool accountable and spread our message. Hopefully the next time Rockwool decides to set up shop, residents will know what to expect so they can be prepared.



Volunteering or working in public service is one of the most effective ways to make a positive impact in our community. Serving in local government uniquely positions you to see the direct impact of your work while lending your voice to important issues that affect our community. There are several new opportunities to serve our community:

- The Jefferson County Commission is conducting interviews during their scheduled meeting on 3/17 for the appointment of two board members to serve on the Historic Landmarks Committee. Read more about how to apply for the positions [here](#).
- The Jefferson County Commission is also seeking three people to serve on the Jefferson County Planning Commission. Planning Commissioners Jack Hafestay and Wade Louthan have submitted a request for consideration to be reappointed for the 3-year terms. Additional openings are available on the Farmland Protection Board and Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority. Read more about these positions [here](#).
- The Jefferson County Commission is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant. The position is open until filled. Read the job description [here](#).
- The City of Charles Town is conducting a search for a new City Manager. Read the job description [here](#).
- The Jefferson County Development Authority has seven terms that will expire in April. Current members are eligible for reappointment or the Jefferson County Commission may appoint new members. The

terms that expire include representatives for Business, Industry (2), Citizen (2), Bolivar, and Harpers Ferry.

[View All Opportunities to Serve](#)

Attending local government meetings is another important way you can be active in the community. Your presence helps to hold our officials accountable to the values and concerns of Jefferson County's citizens. "Think global, act local!"

[View This Week's Meetings](#)

Please consider a gift to support our critical work if you are able to. We greatly appreciate every donation. All proceeds benefit JCV's efforts to lead legal, political, and community action to support sustainable growth, without heavy industry, and to empower our citizen's voices to ensure a clean, transparent government in Jefferson County.

[Donate To Support Our Work](#)



Copyright © 2022 Jefferson County Vision, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

