

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A Statement Regarding the 10/14/2026 Blast Event at Birdsboro Quarry

A scheduled production blast event occurred at Birdsboro Quarry on Wednesday October 14, 2026. Detonation occurred at approximately 12:45 p.m. local time following standard pre-blast notifications and procedures. The shot consisted of sixty-eight (68) 5.5-inch diameter loaded holes drilled to a depth of 55 feet. The layout and design of the shot was consistent with the PADEP approved blast plan for the quarry. As required, a seismograph was placed at 408 Hopewell Street to record the effects of the blast, specifically ground vibration and air blast (sound). This seismograph was triggered during the event and recorded an air blast above the normal levels typically recorded during prior production blasts at Birdsboro Quarry. Ground vibration was measured to be near zero. A second seismograph unit was placed at 106 Catlin Street. The second seismograph did not trigger, meaning effects of the blast were not observed at this location.

As is customary, following the blast event, the data gathered from measurements during the blast event was compiled and thoroughly examined by both H&K and the third-party blasting contractor responsible for conducting onsite blasting operations. Through the combined comprehensive review of the facts, it was concluded that two of the holes contained air pockets, also known as a bridge, within the stemming column of the hole. Stemming refers to the backfilled stone cap within the hole above the placed explosive material. Bridges in the stemming column of the two noted holes likely elevated the observed effects of the air blast upon detonation. Coincidentally, dense cloud cover over the site at the time of the blast event likely exacerbated the felt effects of the blast as well. Moving forward, H&K and the blaster will implement the following procedures to ensure that all future blast events register within the typical expected range of measurement for air blast (sound):

- Stem rods will be used to ensure stemming is locked in.
- The stemming volume of material for each hole will be measured and recorded.
- In the event of a bridge of material within the stemming column, additional aggregate will be placed over the subject hole(s) to cover the hole and prevent stemming ejection.

Further inquiries regarding this matter may be directed to Evan D. Sowers, P.E. at esowers@hkgroup.com or 610-222-3052. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

The H&K Group, Inc.