

Dear Members of the School Board,

This letter is to ask for your support in our effort to have the "Amendment to Blast" by Pioneer Coal at the Stellarton Strip Mine denied. This "blasting" in the documents sent to the Dept. of Environment state that this blasting will take place "1 per week for the remainder of the project."

We would like to make it clear we do not wish to bring any publicity to the G.R. Saunders School that would disrupt the children nor get the parents up in arms so to speak. This is not our goal. We are concerned for the health and safety of our children and we hope you are as well.

Coal dust has many adverse health affects on our children . It may not be visible to see but as I will show you in these documented studies it can cause respiratory illnesses and many other health effects. Our children have been breathing in this coal dust for almost 20 years now. If we did a survey of local pharmacies I'm sure you would see an increased use of puffers and other respiratory problems.

Despite the assurances of Pioneer Coal, one has only to go to a website set up by a group of citizens that document Pioneer Coal's activities in other mines he owns. He gave these people assurances like the ones proposed for us as well. The pictures and videos will tell the real truth about what happens when blasting takes place in Pioneer Coal's other sites.

Again, we are only asking for your support with regards to writing to our appointed officials with your concerns about the proposed blasting. Once you see the website mentioned above and the documentation on the health effects of coal dust, I hope you will have the same concerns we as a committee have.

We as a committee have the interests of children at our school. We do not wish for them to be exposed to any more dust than is currently being produced at the mine site to this point in time. We would appreciate any support you could give us in this matter. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope it makes our concerns and objectives clear.

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/02/20/research-finds-additional-harm-from-coal-dust-exposure/>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/Global/new-zealand/report/2007/1/enviro-impacts-of-coal.pdf>

http://www.keepthescenicrimscenic.com/resources/Air_near_coal_mines-%20Sue%20Bradbury.pdf

<http://www.c-a-s-m.org>