

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Willig, Robert A.
Subject: [REDACTED]wnship Timber Harvest
Attachments: East rockhill Township Ordinance and Permit Fees.pdf

Hi Mr. Willig,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have a consulting forestry business located in [REDACTED]. I work with private landowners to help them manage their forests. I have been working throughout southeastern PA conducting timber sales for 10 years now. Most of the townships in this area require permits to harvest timber but put regulations in place that are much stricter than state law and have illegal steps involved to issue a permit. I have just been dealing with their process for the last 10 years and have reached the point recently where I am tired of allowing the townships to keep abusing their powers. I know others in the industry have reached out quite a bit to you in the last few years with some of the same concerns that I will discuss below. After looking through the ACRE website, it seems that the majority of the timber cases discuss the same issues and you have gotten the townships to change their ordinances. There are numerous townships close by to where I live where it would be so expensive to obtain a timber permit and the process would be so long that its not even worth my time or the loggers time. I literally avoid these townships and I am ready to do whatever it takes to help change the regulation so that its fair to the landowners in these townships as well as the timber industry.

I am currently having an issue in East Rockhill township, Bucks County PA. I conducted a timber sale on a property in their township last fall/winter. The permit process was very lengthy and expensive. I was required to have my E&S Plan reviewed and approved by the Bucks County Conservation District (\$200); the township timber permit was \$500; the township driveway permit was \$100; Then the township required a \$1000 escrow for their engineer or whoever else they feel necessary to be able to withdraw from; plus their was an additional \$100 filing fee for the escrow; so we have \$2,000 invested in on the permit).

We completed the job in March of 2020 and seeded all the logging roads and log landings in April of 2020. once the grass seed started growing, I called the township to inform them that the operation was completed and we would like our escrow to be released. I waited a couple weeks and never got a response from anyone. I called the township again requesting the escrow release and had the same response that someone would be in touch and noone ever got back to be. Then in early July 2020 I called again and spoke with the township and finally got an email reply on July 6th, 2020 informing me that the engineer was going to inspect the job so that the escrow could be released. I waited until August 4th, 2020 and never heard anything from the township so I sent the township Manager another email. Then on August 5th, 2020, I received an email with letter attachment from the township engineer saying that all the tracking pad stone must be removed, graded and seeded before the escrow could be released. The landowner wanted to have the access left in place for cutting firewood or future timber harvests. The site was completely stabilized and there was no issues of erosion or water blockage where we had the driveway put in place. Then on August 13th, the logger received a invoice in the mail from the township for the engineers time as well as the townships time. I believe its against the ACRE law for us to have this escrow and be paying the township engineer. I have attached the email chain and letters as well as the township ordinance as well. I was wondering if you could help us get our escrow back in full as well as help the township change their ordinance.

If you need any additional information just let me know.

Thanks!