

# Longwall Mining Public Comment Letter Templates

## 1. General Community Member Comment Letter (Clear, Concise)

[Your Name]  
[Address]  
[City, State, ZIP]  
[Email / Phone]  
[Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Comments on [Permit/Plan Name and Number] – Proposed Longwall Mining Activities Near [Location]

I am submitting these comments as a resident of [community name] who will be directly affected by the proposed longwall mining activities under and around [specific location/stream/road/property].

Longwall mining poses significant risks to homes, water supplies, and community infrastructure due to predictable subsidence. I am concerned that the proposed plan does not sufficiently address:

1. **Protection of streams and wetlands.** Longwall panels commonly cause bedrock cracking and loss of stream flow. The plan does not explain how the company will prevent or fully restore impacts to [specific stream or watershed].
2. **Damage to water supplies.** Private wells and springs in the area are vulnerable to drawdown and contamination. The permit lacks clear baseline testing, monitoring protocols, and guaranteed remedies.
3. **Subsidence impacts to homes and structures.** The company must provide detailed subsidence predictions, maps, and mitigation strategies, including protections for [specific home, building, or community location].
4. **Impacts to roads and public infrastructure.** Damage to [road name, bridge, cemetery, public facility] could create safety hazards and financial burdens on taxpayers.

I urge the agency to require stronger protections, more rigorous baseline data, and enforceable commitments for repair and restoration before allowing this permit to move forward.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

## 2. Technical / Detailed Comment Letter (Focused on Data & Analysis)

[Your Organization or Name]

[Contact Information]

[Date]

**Subject: Formal Comments on [Permit/Plan Number] – Longwall Mining by [Company]**

Dear [Regulator/Agency Name]:

I submit the following technical comments regarding the proposed longwall mining activities at [Location]. Based on scientific research, historic data, and regulatory requirements under **SMCRA**, the plan requires substantive revisions.

### 1. Insufficient Hydrologic Baseline Data

- The plan does not include seasonal and multi-year data for wells, springs, seeps, and stream segments.
- Baseline sampling should include pH, conductivity, TDS, alkalinity/acidity, metals, and flow measurements.
- The exclusion of [specific water source] is a significant data gap.

### 2. Inadequate Stream Protection and Restoration

- The predicted subsidence trough intersects [stream name], which is known to have high ecological value.
- The EA/permit relies on outdated mitigation methods that have repeatedly failed in the region.
- The plan does not evaluate cumulative impacts from prior longwall panels.

### 3. Weak Subsidence Prediction Analysis

- The company relies on generic profiles instead of site-specific geologic modeling.
- The panel width, overburden depth, and geology indicate a high risk of tensile cracking, particularly near [location].
- No contingency plan is described for structural impacts to buildings older than [age] or already vulnerable.

### 4. Lack of Community Infrastructure Protection

- Roads, gas lines, fiber-optic cables, and municipal water lines fall within the zone of maximum predicted subsidence.
- The plan does not specify engineering controls, monitoring frequency, or emergency response procedures.

## 5. Insufficient Public Engagement

- Residents report little to no outreach from the company.
- Public notice maps do not clearly show panel boundaries relative to homes.

### Requested Actions

I respectfully request that the agency:

- Require a revised, complete hydrology study;
- Conduct an independent subsidence risk review;
- Require enforceable, pre-funded mitigation and repair commitments;
- Withhold approval until the operator completes all required analyses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**[Name / Organization]**

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## 3. Landowner-Specific Comment Letter (Focused on Property & Water Rights)

[Your Name]

[Address]

[Date]

**Re: Comments on Longwall Mining Under/Adjacent to My Property – [Permit Number]**

Dear **[Agency/Official Name]**:

I own property at **[address or parcel ID]**, which lies directly above or adjacent to the proposed longwall panels in this permit. I am submitting comments because the plan fails to protect my **home, land, and water supply**.

**My concerns include:**

### 1. Damage to My Water Supply

My property relies on a **private well/spring**, and subsidence-related fracturing could permanently alter or destroy it. The plan does not include:

- Baseline sampling for my water source
- A clear timetable for replacement water
- A guarantee that repairs will be prompt and at the operator's full expense

## 2. Structural Damage to My Home and Buildings

I am especially concerned about:

- Foundation integrity
- Walls and windows
- Septic systems
- Fencing/barns/outbuildings

The permit lacks enforceable commitments to protect or fully repair damage.

## 3. Safety Risks

Longwall-induced subsidence can damage **roads, gas wells, and pipelines** near my home. These risks are not adequately addressed.

## 4. Compensation and Remedies

The plan does not outline a clear process for:

- Filing damage claims
- Independent assessments
- Timelines for restoration

I request that the agency require the company to strengthen protections and engage directly with affected landowners before approval.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

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## 4. Environmental/Advocacy Organization Comment Letter

**[Organization Name]**

**[Address]**

**[Date]**

**To the Office of [Regulatory Agency]:**

**Re: Comments on [Permit Number] – Longwall Mine Expansion by [Company]**

Dear Sir/Madam:

[Organization Name] submits these comments on behalf of our members and partner communities impacted by longwall mining in **[region]**.

We oppose approval of this permit unless the operator can demonstrate that the project will not cause **irreversible subsidence damage, stream dewatering, loss of aquatic habitat, and public safety risks**. Historic patterns across Appalachia show that these impacts are predictable and widespread.

**Key concerns:**

1. **Stream Loss & Impaired Waters** – The predicted subsidence zone includes **[stream name]**, a designated **[e.g., High-Quality Coldwater Fishery]**. Past mitigation attempts in the basin have failed.
2. **Long-Term Hydrologic Impacts** – Bedrock fracturing can cause permanent loss of flow. The EA relies on outdated restoration assumptions not supported by current science or region-wide outcomes.
3. **Public Infrastructure Damage** – The plan does not address impacts to **roads, cemeteries, historic sites, or public water lines**.
4. **Climate & Air Quality Concerns** – The plan lacks a cumulative greenhouse gas analysis or fugitive methane estimates.
5. **Environmental Justice Issues** – Residents in the zone of impact face disproportionate environmental burdens and limited access to remedies.

**Requests:**

- Require an updated environmental assessment
- Impose strict water and subsidence monitoring
- Require financial assurances and bonds sufficient to cover full repair costs
- Withhold approval until all deficiencies are corrected

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

**[Name]**

**[Organization]**

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## **5. Brief “Fill-in-the-Blanks” Comment Letter for Community Members**

**Subject: Comments on Longwall Mining Permit [Number]**

Dear **[Agency Name]**,

I am commenting on the proposed longwall mining by **[company]** near **[location]** because I am concerned about:

- Impacts to **streams/water supplies**
- Damage to **homes and buildings**
- Harm to **wildlife or habitat**
- Damage to **roads or community infrastructure**
- Loss of **property value**
- Risks from **blasting, noise, or dust**
- Lack of **public outreach and transparency**

I urge the agency to protect our community and require stronger safeguards before approving this permit.

Sincerely,

**[Name]**

**[Address, if desired]**