

TASC Conference Call to Discuss Latest Request for Services from the CAG – 12-04-13

Participants included:

Ruth Wuenschel, Vance Evans, and Carrie Deitzel	EPA Region 3
Tina Conley and Freya Margand.....	EPA HQ
Gordon Chase and David Froelich.....	BoRit CAG
Amanda Goynes and Krissy Russel-Hedstrom.....	SKEO, Inc.

The purpose of this call was to define the CAG’s need for asbestos sampling expertise so that an appropriate technical directive can be written and an advisor selected.

Gordon:

Said he is looking at this as a function of the CAG’s RRM group. The CAG wants to monitor ongoing concentrations of airborne asbestos in Ambler. Currently, monitoring occurs only one day every five years which isn’t sufficient. There should be technology available in this century to perform this sort of on-going sampling, but none of the CAG members is expert on the subject. They are looking for someone to provide them enough knowledge about available technologies to monitor asbestos in the Ambler air. Both the BoRit and the Ambler Asbestos sites abut homes, park and local trails. The CAG wants to monitor broad asbestos in air issues.

David:

Said that regarding the timeframe, the situation is ongoing and will continue over a long period of time. They aren’t looking for occasional monitoring but for continuous monitoring and a plan.

Freya:

Said that identifying technologies that can be applied to monitoring on-going asbestos air releases fits within the scope of TASC. Can prepare a TD for assistance that will identify the technologies that are available and help the CAG understand them so that the CAG can formulate questions and voice opinions to EPA.

Also said that HQ will prepare the TD and provide Carrie and Ruth a copy. SKEO will follow the TD to secure the appropriate expertise to work with the CAG .

Gordon:

Said the CAG leaders want to be included on the running commentary to hear the A-Z of the discussion including what technologies drop out of consideration and why.

David:

Said he wants the TASC advisor to craft a better definition of the CAG desires. The CAG wants to assure the safety of the town of Ambler and the adjacent recreational areas. So, the advisor needs to define a circumference that includes the Green Ribbon Trail and the Ambler Asbestos Site...And they don’t just

want a list of equipment. They want a plan.

Freya:

Asked if the CAG wants the technologies and also a description of what is and is not applicable to the site, plus they also want a plan for monitoring?

Gordon:

Said they do not want the sites and the issues separated. They want the TASC report to be inclusive of both . Also, regarding the length of time for the monitoring should be “as long as the asbestos is there.

Gordon & David:

Said a delivery date for the report is not critical but it should be timely enough to not lose the faith of the CAG which has been waiting about 6 months already since their first request. They definitely need information before the PRAP and the comment period. The CAG meets tonight and then not again until February (1st Wed). There are not likely that many technologies available to review. The more difficult issue is the development of a plan to protect Ambler.

Amanda:

Said TASC will investigate the technologies and report what is available and what may be applicable, but TASC will not make recommendations for the CAG.

Freya:

Said there is already a TD in place to enable SKEO to get started on finding an expert to fill this request. Asked Krissy about meeting the CAG.

Krissy:

Said she attended a CAG meeting when Stewart Wiswall presented his report. Krissy said it should be possible to have a TASC advisor present at the February CAG meeting and that it should also be possible to produce a brief write-up to accompany the presentation.

Gordon/David:

Asked to receive written materials a week before the February meeting, so that CAG members may formulate queries.

Freya:

Suggested that CAG should provide questions to advisor before presentation so advisor may prepare responses.

Understandings:

1. HQ will write and submit to SKEO a technical directive for an advisor. Will copy Region 3 personnel.

2. SKEO will select a TASC advisor with expertise in airborne asbestos issues and work with CAG, as necessary, to ensure CAG expectations are understood.
3. TASC advisor will conduct review of technologies, compile a report, and prepare a presentation to be given to the CAG at the February meeting. Written report will be provided to CAG 1 week in advance of CAG meeting.
4. CAG members will endeavor to submit questions about the report to their advisor in advance of the CAG meeting.
5. TASC will not make recommendations to the CAG regarding the EPA cleanup. It remains the responsibility of the CAG to use the knowledge provided by the TASC advisor to develop and submit comments, requests, or questions to EPA.