

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Community Advisory Group Meeting

Ambler/Upper Dublin/Whitpain, Pennsylvania

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Location: Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave. Fort Washington, PA 19002

Meeting called to order by Co-chair Bob Adams at 6:40 p.m.

Item #1: Welcome & Announcements

Co-chair Bob Adams began the meeting by asking those in attendance if there were any additions or changes to the meeting agenda. No changes were noted. At this point Co-chair Adams made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. All in attendance were in favor of this motion.

Item #2: Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Report – Mr. Stuart Wiswall, P.G. of Skeo Solutions

Mr. Stuart Wiswall, P.G., of Skeo Solutions spoke to the group to help the group understand the cleanup methods that are typically used to address asbestos contamination in soil. Mr. Wiswall distributed copies of his presentation to the group. Mr. Wiswall stated that the purpose of his presentation was not to propose a remedy, but to go over methods for remediation of asbestos soil contamination.

Questions and comments raised during Mr. Wiswall's presentation are as follows:

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Gordon Chase asked if the presentation was being made at the request of EPA. Mr. Wiswall responded that the presentation was being made at the request of the CAG.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Sal Boccuti asked for confirmation as to what site was referred to in the presentation for in-situ. Mr. Wiswall responded that the site was the Asbestos Dump in Millington, New Jersey. Mr. Wiswall also stated that the links to his sources are included in the presentation.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Ruth Wuenschel of EPA stated that a presentation on the 5-Year Review will be made at the December meeting.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Gordon Chase asked why the Valley Forge site in the presentation was not EPA's responsibility. Ms. Sharon McCormick stated that the site was not on the National Priorities List (NPL) and that it was managed by PA DEP.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Wiswall estimated that the volume of material at the BoRit site was approximately 320,000 cubic yards. Ms. Kris Matzko confirmed that was the EPA was using a figure very close to this.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Gordon Chase asked why Maple Street is the demarcation for samples. Ms. Kristine Matzko of EPA stated that residential sampling was conducted offsite around Maple Street and across the Wissahickon Creek, and the results were not above screening levels. There was no report generated as yet. However, the results were a part of the Remedial Investigation.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Kristine Matzko confirmed that the definition of PPE is Personal Protective Equipment.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Eric Cheung asked who was required to wear PPE during removal. Mr. Wiswall stated that the workers wear PPE and that the health risk is to the workers.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Gordon Chase asked whose responsibility it was for maintenance of the site once remediation is completed. Co-chair Bob Adams stated that it is EPA's responsibility but that the landowner is responsible for paying for it. Ms. Kris Matzko stated that at an EPA-led investigation, as in the BoRit site, EPA leads from the investigation to maintenance. At this point, EPA enters into an agreement with the state, and provides a percentage of the cost sharing, and the state takes over responsibility for the site.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Susan Curry stated that EPA Removal has done an onsite excavation and consolidation. Ms. Kristine Matzko stated that EPA Removal did consolidate. A full analysis was not completed based on regulations and engineering issues. Ms. Curry asked whether depositing was completed onsite in Whitpain Park. Ms. Matzko stated that she was not sure where depositing was completed in the park, but that Mr. Eduardo Rovira of EPA wanted to maintain material onsite, although some material was removed. Ms. Curry stated that there was newly deposited material and asked why it was decided to put it there. Mr. Gordon Chase stated that they took it and redistributed the material equally and smoothed it over. Ms. Ruth Wuenschel stated that Mr. Rovira should draft an explanation for the CAG.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Sharon McCormick stated that a lot of asbestos sites were remediated in the 1980's and EPA decided to cap many of them. Ms. McCormick stated that there has been trouble with every single capped site. Ms. McCormick stated that the nine cleanup criteria outlined by Mr. Wiswall do not work and that the typical approach of capping doesn't work. Ms. McCormick stated that there is no proof that asbestos does not migrate through the soil. Mr. Gordon Chase stated that since asbestos has been detected in groundwater, that is proof that it migrates. Mr. Wiswall stated that there is no clear evidence to support migration and that caps are constructed with a textile liner and are designed to prevent soil from coming up. Notable exception: Ambler Asbestos Piles were capped without a lining.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Gordon Chase commented on the differences between the BoRit site and the Ambler site, such as the fact that all of the trees were removed from the BoRit site and the Ambler site is forested with 30-40 year old trees. There is a concern noted of animals burrowing and tree roots destroying the cap. Mr. Chase also asked why there is a range of acceptable ways to cap. Mr. Joe McDowell of EPA responded and asked to wait to have the discussion at the December meeting when Jim Feeney will be present. Mr. McDowell also stated that for the Ambler site,

some requirements were waived to maintain the slope (trees that are present to hold the slope). Mr. Chase stated that slopes were reduced on the BoRit site. Mr. McDowell stated that the activity on the BoRit site was removal, and that they mostly reshaped and regraded for a 3:1 slope, selectively removing ACM as required.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Peter Lowry asked whether EPA has published the quantity for full asbestos removal. Ms. Kristine Matzko stated that the number has been refined. Mr. Joe McDowell stated that the quantity for full removal was estimated at 325,000 cubic yards.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Peter Lowry stated that there is some data from core samples and asked if, based on that data, an estimate be made regarding hazards/costs/time for full removal of asbestos material. Mr. Lowry also asked whether EPA plans to take more samples; also how many trucks would be required for full removal, an estimate as to the size of the removal, and the cost of capping. Ms. Kristine Matzko stated that based on the characteristics of the site, there are no plans for additional core samples. She also stated that if asbestos is buried, you can't tell how friable it is. She continued that the scope of the "dig and haul" can be provided to the CAG based on general parameters for this and other sites. Ms. Matzko further stated that a rough estimate can be worked up based on past cubic yards, trucks, etc. Mr. Joe McDowell asked how refined the estimate needed to be. Co-chair Bob Adams stated that the CAG was requesting a ballpark estimate.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Otis Hightower asked how trucks hauling through a neighborhood will harm residents. Mr. Peter Lowry asked how many trucks were previously removed and how long that took. Mr. Joe McDowell stated that EPA would provide the CAG with quantities on what was previously removed.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Sharon McCormick asked what the risk was for capping. She also stated that vitrification as a remediation method sounds promising. Mr. Gordon Chase stated that since the cost of natural gas is now cheaper, maybe methods previously discarded as cost prohibitive should be reevaluated.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Diane Morgan stated that during the August meeting the water report was discussed. Ms. Morgan stated that she finds it disturbing that the testing wasn't conducted further down in the aquifers. Ms. Morgan asked whether deeper wells would indicate whether the asbestos is moving. Co-chair Bob Adams stated that the CAG made a request to Ms. Kristine Matzko for an additional evaluation of this issue following the procedure suggested in the last Wiswall report. Ms. Matzko stated that the EPA is evaluating that request.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Diane Morgan stated that air sampling is critical and that she is not comfortable with the lack of air monitoring. Ms. Morgan also stated she found ASTDR's report incomplete. Mr. Eric Cheung asked if EPA will install an air monitor after the cap is in place.

³⁵₁₇ Mr. Peter Lowry stated that activities have been delegated to companies like CDM. Activities have been delegated to Mr. Rovira. Mr. Lowry then asked what can be done to make the community feel better. Mr. Lowry stated that failure to take air samples is a problem and asked whether air samples could be taken to make the community feel better. Without sampling, there is no data. Third party sampling would be ideal. Long term plans for sampling are important, but short term is needed now. Mr. Sal Boccuti asked if air sampling is conducted during the five-year review. Ms. Sharon McCormick stated that the five-year review is a visual inspection only.

³⁵₁₇ Ms. Susan Curry asked if passive recreation could be available onsite. Ms. Curry also wondered why many sites included in Mr. Wiswall's presentation that were marked as completed have not been deleted from the NPL, in fact many had further EPA actions. Ms. Sharon McCormick stated that only three of the sites listed in the presentation have been used after capping, but that it was not for passive recreation. Usage was noted as including a mall, a Wal-Mart, and the Metroplex in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania.

At this point Co-chair Bob Adams stopped the discussion at 8:18 p.m. due to time constraints.

Item #3: Workgroup Reports

RR&M Committee

Mr. Gordon Chase stated that there was no physical meeting of the RR&M Committee since the August CAG meeting. Mr. Chase noted that there are concerns with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) Health Consultation Report; specifically that it did not mention Mr. Wiswall's report. The CAG Co-chairs wrote to EPA and made a request that EPA take the gaps in data noted in Mr. Wiswall's report into consideration. Ms. Kristine Matzko stated that a response to this request may be prepared by EPA by the end of the year. Ms. Matzko also stated that EPA has not made contact with Ambler Borough. Co-chair Bob Adams requested that EPA make contact with Ambler Borough in regards to this issue. Ms. Matzko stated that she would.

HERS Workgroup

Ms. Barbara Allerton began the HERS Workgroup update by stating the comment period for the report on groundwater data ended on October 3, 2012 and that the report may be finalized by the end of the year. Ms. Ana Pomales of ASTDR stated that the manganese health concerns will be addressed in the Health Consultation when it is final, but that she would confirm this information. Ms. Allerton continued and stated that the HERS Workgroup attended 2 community activities since the August meeting: the West Ambler Civic Association with Mr. Vance Evans of EPA, where forty to fifty people attended; and Ms. Brit Dahlberg attended a meeting on flooding issues. Ms. Diane Morgan stated that she did not write a press release on the Health Report because she felt that the report offered nothing newsworthy .

Rules Committee

Ms. Kimberly Hirshberg noted that no actions were conducted within the Rules Committee since there are no members of the Rules Committee besides herself. Ms. Hirshberg stated that more people are needed for the Rules Committee. Co-chair Bob Adams asked the CAG to think hard and consider participating on the Rules Committee.

Item #4: Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Item #5 Action Items:

Current items:

- ³⁵₁₇ Items #3 and #95: Absences. Ms. Susan Curry noted that Rules should be tracking absences for membership. Co-chair Bob Adams noted that the required information was provided to Ms. Kimberly Hirshberg at this meeting, and she will follow up.
- ³⁵₁₇ Item #135: Ms. Susan Curry noted that this item needed review. Ms. Curry stated that she can't hold the chart anymore and that she was turning it over to Co-chair Bob Adams after conversing with Ms. Kris Matzko about the next two up-coming completion events.
- ³⁵₁₇ Item #139: Private wells onsite. Ms. Susan Curry stated that ASTDR asked EPA to request the identities of private well owners. Is EPA responding? Regarding a press release, Ms. Curry asked how a press release can be authorized. A request was made for discussion of this issue at a future meeting.
- ³⁵₁₇ New Item: A vote was taken to request from EPA a cost estimate for full removal, whether there can or will be repeat air testing for what was already completed, and for perimeter sampling. Ms. Kristine Matzko stated that the CAG should provide this request to EPA in writing.

Item #6: Old Business/New Business/Next Steps

Mr. Gordon Chase stated that he felt that having CAG meetings every other month was a disadvantage to getting business done. Co-chair Bob Adams stated that monthly meetings are not required as long as the committees are doing their jobs and that the month in between allows the committees to operate. Co-chair Adams stated that this could be further discussed at another meeting. Ms. Sharon McCormick asked whether the West Ambler Revitalization Committee has CAG representation and whether they could get CAG representation there.

Elections were held by the CAG and Bob Adams was unanimously elected Co-chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. by Co-Chair Bob Adams.

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2012.

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