

BoRit CAG Meeting Minutes, Monday August 1st 2016

Upper Dublin Township Building.

- 1) Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Gordon Chase.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** from Co-Chair Bob Adams who is on vacation and Pat Patterson from PA DEP who had a prior scheduled engagement.
- 3) **Introduction** of Helen DuTeau, (Acting Associate Director, Office of Brownfields & Outreach U.S. EPA Region 3) and Terri Boguski of Skeo Solutions.
- 4) **Special announcement** that the BoRit CAG has won the EPA's National Notable Achievement Award for "Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement". This award is given by the Headquarters Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) to recognize individuals and/or a community groups working with one of the OLEM Waste Programs for outstanding achievements in the field of environmental protection. These waste programs include: Superfund (removal and remedial), Superfund Enforcement, Brownfields, RCRA, Underground Storage Tanks (UST), and Federal Facilities.
- 5) **Group photograph**, courtesy of CAG member Otis Hightower
- 6) **Conference call from Mr. Mathy Stanislaus**, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management, to congratulate the BoRit CAG, its members past and present, on the award mentioned above. It was also noted by Mr Stanislaus that the BoRit CAG was the first organization to utilize the TASC program.
- 7) **Presentation by Terri Boguski of Skeo Solutions** on the TASC review of the EPA Feasibility Study.¹ Subsequent to the presentation CAG member Dr. Ted Emmet raised issues of the importance of institutional controls, cap disturbance avoidance and cancer risk assessment levels currently used by EPA. Ms Boguski noted that a question existed as to whether, if the cancer risk levels were tightened, would that make any difference to the removal/remediation actions taken or being considered?

CAG member Diane Morgan raised the issue of contaminants other than asbestos having been detected in the Wissahickon Creek. Ms Boguski advised that these contaminants were also detected upstream of the BoRit site and as such there was no definitive evidence to suggest that these contaminants originated from the BoRit site. Should further investigation of these contaminated sources be required it would be a matter for the PA DEP and the appropriate water authorities to undertake. It was suggested that the CAG member from the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association may have a desire to follow up on this issue and that it would be a matter for the CAG to consider at the October CAG meeting.

CAG members Peter Lowry and Salvatore Boccuti expressed concerns that the 'pile parcel' of the BoRit site did not have a 'responsible party' designation assigned to it and that maintenance of that site needed to be assured. EPA confirmed that they will be maintaining the site for 5 years and that the PA DEP will enter into an agreement with the EPA that will commit them to ensure required maintenance on an evergreen basis.

¹The presentation can be viewed at <http://www.boritag.org/about/presentations.html>.

CAG member Eric Cheung of the Clean Air Council sought clarification of how the costs for the current removal action were accounted for in the EPA's feasibility study and any decision that would result in the forthcoming Proposed Plan (PRAP). EPA advised that the accounting of these costs would be detailed fully in the PRAP and that the bulk of them would be highlighted as 'sunk costs' already expended in the removal action.

CAG Member for Upper Dublin Township Jennifer Zega inquired into the apparent lower water level now in evidence at the Reservoir parcel and any consequent danger of asbestos exposure. It was explained that the original water level of the reservoir before it was drained and re-mediated was 185.1ft above sea level. After re-mediation wherein the floor of the reservoir was raised by the addition of clean fill on top of liner material, the reservoir was refilled to 187ft. The reservoir has subsequently settled back down to a current level of 185.4ft, so very close to its original level. The net visual effect is therefore to expose the bottom of the reservoir at the shallow end which is set higher than it was originally, though the water level itself is within a few inches of its original height. The actual level is being monitored by a staff gauge and EPA are recording water levels.

- 8) **PRAP delayed publication.** EPA were asked to clarify the reasons for the extensive delay in the publication of the PRAP, which had originally been expected in Q12016, but has yet to materialize. Co-Chair Gordon Chase asked whether there had been any 'black swan' event that had caused new concerns to be evaluated by the EPA. EPA advised that this was not the case and that the delay was purely a matter of internal deliberations among different departments (legal, regional and headquarters), that were taking longer than expected to resolve. However it is hoped that the PRAP may be ready for release in October, but without any guarantees.
- 9) **UPenn air monitoring.** Gordon Chase reported that the several months of weekly air sampling taken by the Upenn passive detector installed on the reservoir parcel adjacent to the pile parcel had revealed no asbestos detection to date. Sal Boccuti will take over the weekly sampling duties from Gordon Chase before his departure.
- 10) **Ambler Piles Air Monitoring.** EPA advised that the two air sampling events undertaken by EPA at the older Ambler Piles Superfund site have produced results that are awaiting validation, though the non validated results reveal no asbestos detection. The Upenn samples that were taken at the same time and place have yet to be evaluated.
- 11) **Ground water monitoring.** EPA advised that the site team that have been undertaking ground water sampling at monitoring well 7 and other locations have yet to validate their data findings. As such EPA could not comment on the results until the validation is completed. In addition, the PA DEP had communicated the following to the CAG co-chairs which was reported to the meeting as below:

“EPA has conducted some sampling and it appears as though contamination has been found in wells that are a source for Gessner. They (EPA) continue to test and evaluate the potential sources of groundwater contamination and should be consulted going forward with regard to addressing those issues. Based on preliminary information, it is too soon for DEP to make any definitive statements regarding what will be required of Gessner during their permit renewal process. As a reminder, the permit renewal is due in July of 2017.”
- 12) **Co-Chair Elections.** Notice was given of the CAG co-chair elections to be held at the Monday October 3rd CAG meeting. All nominations must be submitted to the Rules Committee members Sal Boccuti and Kim Hirshberg, not the current CAG co-chairs. As co-chair Gordon Chase is moving to Maryland in August, that seat will also be up for election to cover the remaining period of his term until October 2017.

- 13) **Certificates of award** mentioned in 4 above were presented to all CAG members present by Helen DuTeau.
- 14) There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approx 9.00pm when members enjoyed the congratulatory cake provided by the EPA to mark the occasion of the award to the CAG.