

BoRit CAG Meeting Minutes June 1st 2016

Upper Dublin Township Building 6.30pm

- 1) Meeting called to order by CAG Co-Chair Bob Adams 6.30pm
- 2) Minutes of April 2016 CAG meeting approved.
- 3) **EPA Update on BoRit Park parcel work suspension**

Jill Lowe (EPA) advised that the work stoppage over the past few weeks at the park parcel concerned weather issues and internal labor/contractor issues that were now resolved and that work would recommence early June, subject to the usual weather restrictions that affect movement of soils. No definitive date could be given for completion, but late fall 2016 now seems to be a more likely scenario than the previously hoped for end summer.

4) Update by Whitpain township on boys and girls club on park parcel

Whitpain township advised that the West Ambler Revitalization plan,¹ which proposes a boys and girls club to be located on the Park Parcel of the BoRit site, will be subject to and in accordance with all EPA requirements and limitations that are yet to be issued via the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision for BoRit. Until these documents are issued and the conditions therein taken into account, there can be no detailed plan for the boys and girls club and no construction. When these documents are released and Whitpain township applies any restrictions to their revitalization plans, the CAG will then have an opportunity to review and comment on any proposal from Whitpain Township. In essence this is a repeat of the statements made at the April CAG meeting.

Both EPA and Whitpain township confirmed that the delay of work at the Park parcel had nothing to do with any Whitpain Township Revitalization plans for the boys and girls club.

5) Discussion of TASC report on FS study, questions and EPA answers

The TASC report by SKEO Solutions² and the EPA responses³ to the questions raised by SKEO were discussed at length. CAG members Ted Emmet and Stephen Moroldo supported the suggestion from SKEO that EPA consider using 10^{-6} as opposed to 10^{-4} in their health risk evaluation. However EPA felt this unnecessary at the BoRit site. Nonetheless they will take this request back to their technical review department and consider the matter further.

Stephen Moroldo wished to know more about the technical composition and life span of the geotextile layer which separates the ACM material from the clean fill above. EPA clarified that this layer should not be considered as a definitive barrier between the two layers, but more of a demarcation/separation layer and to stabilize the terrain to provide an acceptable surface to place the cover material, provide erosion control, or aid drainage. It was suggested that CAG members could contact the manufacturer directly to ascertain the specifications of the material if they had greater interest in the technical specifications of the product used. The risk to burrowing animals is acknowledged and vigilance on this issue will be suggested as part of the institutional controls.

Stephen Moroldo also asked for the SKEO team to review the boys and girls club plans from Whitpain Township as part of the existing TASC review. It was explained by EPA that the SKEO

1 http://www.whitpaintownship.net/pages/news_westambler.php

2 <http://www.boritcag.org/siteinfo/currentstudies.html>

3 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/correspondence.html>

review was centered on the FS report as published in 2015 in which there were no detailed plans for a boys and girls club on the BoRit site and for which final plans do not exist even today, which is why there is no review of this issue in the SKEO report. Furthermore any new request for TASC assistance is limited to the review of EPA documents and not third party documents, such as the Whitpain Township Revitalization plan.

The SKEO team will be present at the August CAG meeting and will be commenting on the Proposed Plan when it is finally issued by EPA, hopefully in time for the August meeting, but with no guarantees.

6) EPA Panel Meeting Arch ST Philadelphia May 23rd 2016

CAG Co-Chairs Bob Adams and Gordon Chase attended a nationwide meeting of EPA regional employees on the subject of Community Advisory Groups at Superfund sites. A frank exchange of experiences was given, particularly regarding the importance of trust and openness as an essential ingredient for a successful CAG/EPA co-operation.

7) Ambler Piles site air monitoring program

Greg Voigt (EPA) advised that monitoring of the Ambler Piles site and surrounding areas had been temporarily postponed due to the very wet weather. It is preferable to have several dry days in a row in order to properly evaluate asbestos in the air, something that has been rare this spring. This should hopefully be completed in June. The UPenn passive detector (currently positioned at BoRit) will be placed alongside one of the EPA devices at Ambler Piles when the activity based sampling date is confirmed. It will then be returned to its regular position at BoRit.

8) UPenn monitoring detector results for first 5 weeks of BoRit sampling spring 2016

Professor Rieto Giere of Upenn was unable to attend the CAG meeting but submitted a presentation given by CAG Co-chair Gordon Chase.⁴ The passive detector, which collects contaminants in the ambient air on a weekly basis via a sticky plate medium for subsequent microscopic analysis by Upenn, has revealed many particulates in the air ranging from pollen, plant fibers, animal fibers, minerals and tire fragments, but no asbestos fibers were detected for the first 5 week period. A further 5 weeks of samples have been dispatched to Upenn for analysis and the process will continue for another year or so.

9) Ground water investigation by EPA

EPA advised that the Site Assessment Program has initiated a new ground water evaluation of the area which will encompass the Gessner Products water extraction issue. This was considered good news and well [sic] received by CAG members who have long been concerned as to the effect of known contaminated ground water at BoRit on the wider water extraction practices in the Ambler area, both for public water supplies and private commercial purposes. It is expected that the results of this investigation will be available by the October CAG meeting as initial data will have to be verified and cannot be released until that process is completed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned approx 8.10pm.

4 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/presentations.html>