

BoRit CAG Meeting Minutes April 4th 2016

Upper Dublin Township Building 6.30pm

- 1) Meeting called to order by CAG Co-Chair Bob Adams 6.30pm
- 2) Members of the public were present including Arthur Frank, M.D. PhD, Professor of Public Health, Drexel University.
- 3) Minutes of February 2016 CAG meeting approved.
- 4) **Presentation by Eduardo Rovira (EPA)**

In response to the perimeter site inspection with recommendations by CAG member Andrew Salvadore previously submitted to EPA, Eduardo reported on the reasons, causes and repairs of the issues raised in the Andrew Salvadore investigation¹. These were primarily as a result of two factors, namely a) the heavy snow and rainfall totals during February of 4ft and 5 inches respectively and b) the raising of the Park parcel level above the previous height of the banks of the parcel as part of the cap installation. This resulted in heavy runoff of snow and rain in certain areas that over-topped the banks. EPA has remedied this situation by installing silt fences along the perimeter of the park parcel such that water runoff should no longer be an issue going forward. Whitpain Township, as owner of the park parcel, will be monitoring this issue in future when the EPA removal team have finished their work. Eduardo added that the slopes will need to be cut on a regular basis as part of the institutional controls. When asked if the water in the reservoir had been tested, Eduardo said no.

Eduardo also reported on the installation of the utility pipes on the park parcel and advised that the excavated material was disposed of in a waste cell in the park parcel and the pipes were laid on top of the usual geotextile membrane and stones, then covered with clean fill as per the engineering recommendations for such utility services.

Dr Frank asked if the workers wore protective clothing and respirators during the installation. Eduardo responded that respirators were not used as they were not necessary. Alternate Member Sharon McCormick asked why utility lines were dug into the cap under an emergency removal action and not under the later proposed remedial action. Eduardo responded that as a matter of efficiency it was more appropriate to install the lines at this time.

The annual inspection of the Wissahickon creek resulted in more pieces of ACM material being removed where possible, whilst other larger pieces embedded in the stream bank among tree roots were left in place when it was not possible to remove by hand. EPA will consider whether machinery needs to be brought in to remove remaining material. It is acknowledged that heavy rain storms and flood events are likely to reveal more ACM material as sediments get disturbed, but that during the course of the EPA operation, it has been observed that each cleanup operation has revealed less material than the year before. Future creek clean-ups will be considered by EPA as part of the institutional controls which are usually identified during remedial design which follows the ROD.”

It was confirmed that the chain link fence along the Maple St. edge of the reservoir parcel will be removed shortly, a permanent fence closer to the water having already been installed. Furthermore, a similar permanent fence will shortly be installed along the Whitpain Park parcel from the reservoir end

1 See <http://www.boritag.org/about/correspondence.html> for written response by Eduardo Rivera of EPA

down to the Mount Pleasant road end. This prompted a debate as to the appropriateness of removing the current fencing before the 'Proposed Plan' or the 'Record of Decision' has been issued. CAG members Diane Morgan, Sharon Vargas and alternate member Sharon McCormick wished to record their objection to the fence and signs coming down as they consider the site to still be an asbestos waste disposal site hazardous to health. EPA advised that as the cap will have been completed, the governing NESHAP's regulations no longer requires the fence or signage as there will no longer be any exposure to the asbestos and therefore no health hazard. CAG members compared this to the remediated Ambler Piles site which still has both fencing and signage, but EPA representative Greg Voigt advised that the reason for this is that fencing and signage were part of the record of decision for the Ambler Piles site, but not required under the NESHAP's regulations.

5) Jack Kelly & Greg Voigt (EPA) Ambient Air Sampling proposal.

Jack Kelly and Greg Voigt briefed the CAG on a proposed air sampling program schedule for this spring and summer (2016) on and adjacent to the Ambler piles site. The locations are yet to be finalized but are proposed to be a possible 17 locations between the Piles, Locust Street and Maple St., dependent on access and other practical considerations.² The program will consist of regular TEM sampling in accordance with ISO 10312 standard³ over 2 separate 24 hour periods. This will coincide with the EPA 5 year review of the Ambler Piles site. Some of these samples will be taken adjacent to the BAST/FRUMIN tracts which are PA DEP Act 2 sites and not EPA Superfund sites, but EPA will be conducting the program and issuing the report(s). Jack stated that no monitoring devices will be placed on the Bast or Frumin parcels as the owners have not given permission. The EPA is going to ask residents on the adjacent streets for permission to place the monitors on their property.

6) EPA Proposed Plan for BoRit

Joe McDowell (EPA) advised that the Proposed Plan for BoRit was still under review and the expected release date is now put back from end Q1/2016 to end Q2 2016.

7) Co-Chair Gordon Chase report on:

a) SKEO conference call ref TASC grant

A conference call was held between Gordon Chase (CAG Co-chair), Terri Boguski⁴ and Kirby Webster⁵ of SKEO Solutions. Terri and Kirby will commence their review of the EPA Feasibility Study without further delay and will combine it with a review of the Proposed Plan when it is finally released. The final report will be presented in two public meetings, one for the CAG at Upper Dublin and a second for the residents of West Ambler, (venue and date to be arranged).

b) Secretary Quigley (PA DEP) visit to BoRit and Ambler Piles Superfund sites

Pat Patterson, representative from PA DEP was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, CAG Co-Chair Gordon Chase gave the report.

Secretary Quigley visited the sites on March 22nd 2016 together with other PA DEP and EPA staff. Secretary Quigley had been briefed on several issues pertaining to the sites and the opportunity was taken by the CAG representative to discuss the communities desire for ongoing

2 See <http://www.boritcag.org/about/presentations.html> for sample location map

3 See <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:10312:ed-1:v1:en> for details.

4 See http://www.skeo.com/people/terrie_boguski

5 See http://www.skeo.com/people/kirby_webster

monitoring of ambient air and the proposed University of Hertfordshire (UoH) proposal to produce monitoring equipment that would meet EPA existing TEM standard protocols, but also offer the benefit of 24/7/365 remote monitoring and reporting. This was taken on board by Secretary Quigley and his staff and a subsequent follow up meeting was proposed (to be arranged by PA DEP).

c) Air monitoring equipment at BoRit and Ambler Piles

Notwithstanding the proposed air monitoring program referred to in 4 above, a passive collector owned by U Penn has been placed on the reservoir parcel with the approval of the owners.⁶ The sticky plate filter will collect particles through simple gravity and the filters will be replaced weekly. Standard microscopy will then be used to identify any asbestos fibers on the filter.

Meanwhile U Penn staff are to discuss (internally) funding possibilities for production of the UoH devices, perhaps via supplement to the current \$10 million grant that is currently fully allocated. This would require collaboration agreements between the two universities, which the UoH are willing to consider.

8) Whitpain Township update on Park parcel plans

As mentioned in item 4 above, Whitpain Township reported on their fencing proposals and the desire to locate the boys & girls club on the park parcel. It was confirmed that any construction on the site would not compromise the cap⁷ and would be in compliance with all/any EPA covenants that are placed on BoRit.

First time visitor to the CAG Dr. Frank stated that he felt the community has already been exposed to asbestos and that he doesn't believe that anything should be built on any of the sites.

9) UPenn presentations

Two presentations were made by U Penn. The first on 'Bioremediation of asbestos' was given by Sanjay Mohanty and the second on the 'Penn Measure' program by Frances Barg and Douglas Wiebe⁸. Dr Arthur Frank of Drexel University had some issues with the usefulness of the historical studies included in the Penn Measure program, though time prevented a fuller technical discussion on the issue, Frances Barg offered to receive any further questions on the study post the CAG meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned approx 8.45pm.

6 Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve

7 Jim Blanch Of Whitpain Township later clarified that "During the meeting, Fred Conner mentioned that the B&GC project would not extend below the cap with any building foundation but it was never represented that the Township project would not require some excavation of the two ft. protective cap. In order to build roads and buildings on the site, the B&GC project will need to excavate portions of the cap in order to install improvements. Of course, if the protective soil cap is excavated in any manner, the project would replace it with other materials that are at least as protective as the existing soil material. For the most part, the 2 ft. cap would remain 2 feet deep, however, it may be comprised of other materials such as soil, stone, pavement, concrete building foundations, etc. that would provide an even more protective cap than a strictly soil cap."

8 See <http://www.boritag.org/about/presentations.html> for full details.