

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
BoRit Asbestos Area
Ambler / Upper Dublin / Whitpain, Pennsylvania

To: BoRit Asbestos Area Community Advisory Group
From: Lora Werner (filling in for Katie O'Connor, who is on vacation)
Date: August 24, 2009
Subject: **Summary of the Wednesday, August 5, 2009, BoRit CAG Meeting**

Next Meeting.

The next BoRit Asbestos Area CAG meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2009
Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Upper Dublin Township Meeting Room
801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact CAG Co-Chairs Bob Adams and Fred Conner.

CAG Attendees.

Michelle Naps, Dave Froelich, Flo Wise, and Fred Robinson were not present. Phil Heimlich participated as Diane Morgan's alternate.

Observers.

There were approximately 12 observers present for at least part of the meeting. Diane Morgan participated as an observer.

Review/Approval of June Meeting Summary.

- Joanne Walker offered some editorial comments on the June meeting summary.

Announcements.

- The CAG has met 21 times since our first meeting on September 10, 2007.
- Melinda Holland is continuing her interviews of CAG members, and has completed a little over half of these interviews as of this date. An assessment of her findings and recommendations is expected at the October 2009 meeting (update per Melinda received after the July meeting). The co-chairs encouraged all members to schedule interviews with her to help the CAG work more collaboratively.

Update of Current Removal Actions.

- Francisco Cruz, EPA provided the update on EPA's removal operations at the site. The weekly operations update conference calls with EPA continue. The calls are Friday mornings at 9 am, and the call in number is 215-814-5996.

- Francisco encouraged any one with questions or concerns to continue to stop by the EPA command post at the site during business hours.
- Work completed this past week included an emergency temporary repair to the south gate fence, and seeking a contractor to construct a new permanent replacement fence this week or next.
- Preparations for dewatering of part of Rose Valley began last week. This will be an iterative process with dewatering activities followed by preparations as needed.
- Pumps are running 24 hours a day for the next few days; the first pump they used was too loud, but the replacement is quieter. EPA distributed fliers to the adjacent residents today.
- Construction for an earthen ramp on the reservoir side of Rose Valley continues; some trees will need to come down. Dave Froelich walked the site with Eduardo Rovira to mark trees to save. Clearing operations will start next week. Large ACM pieces are being removed and disposed of properly offsite.
- Operation and maintenance of Phase I and ongoing dust suppression activities continue. REAC will resume air monitoring activities next week.
- Approximately 6,980 cubic yards of clean fill has been delivered (315 loads to date with 34 new loads this week).
- EPA's plans for the Phase 2 stabilization design of Rose Valley are "near final" and will be shared with the co-chairs next week; there will be a 30 day comment period available for public comments on these plans.
- There was a lot of flooding in the area due to last weekend's storm. Roman Pronczak shared a video during the break displaying the force of the water during this weekend's flooding event in West Ambler. A significant amount of water came through the sluiceway on the upstream side of Maple Avenue. Homes were flooded and 5 people had to be rescued. The channels in Rose Valley and the Wissahickon held up fairly well. This is the second time this year this has happened (prior 2009 event was in June). Whippain Township continues to work with the community on this problem.

Update on Remedial Plans/Actions.

- Stacie Peterson, EPA provided an update on the remedial investigation (RI) workplan. She introduced Lucinda Phippen (CDM), who is EPA's project officer for the remedial investigation workplan for this site.
- Constituents that will be included in the sampling plan include asbestos, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi-VOCs. EPA is working to develop a site conceptual model at this time, and then will work to understand the ecological and human health risk. The site Feasibility Study (FS) will be developed out of all of this information from the RI. At that point EPA will evaluate the different cleanup options for the site; EPA will not select a remedy until the RI/FS process is complete.
- Stacie estimated the process for the RI/FS will take three years.
- She reviewed the criteria for remedy selection, including the two threshold criteria, the five primary balancing criteria, and the two modifying criteria (state and community acceptance).

- This fall (approximately September) EPA will conduct a first phase of environmental sampling that is expected to include waste material, soil, sediments, and surface water. The second phase, which will include possibly groundwater and some activity-based air sampling, will occur next summer; the specifics of the second phase will depend on the results of the first phase.
- The next product EPA will develop is a site management plan, which will include the nuts and bolts of the site scoping plan.

Rules Committee.

- This committee has not met in the last month. Joanne Walker indicated that they are waiting for Melinda to complete her interviews and to incorporate her feedback on CAG operations before making further changes to the CAG's rules.
- Joanne noted that only a few members got back to her with updates for their contact information. Melinda will proceed with asking for this from CAG members as part of her interviews.
- There is an open seat on the CAG for an Ambler business owner. Dave Caddick resigned after the June meeting.
- All new nominations, both for the vacant seat and the co-chairs, are requested by members or their alternates by September 2.
- Fred Conner and Bob Adams have served as co-chairs since October 2006. Two month notice was served for election of new co-chairs for the October 2009. Joanne will look into revisions to the rules to establish alternating co-chair terms.

Community Awareness Committee.

- Diane Morgan provided an update regarding the CAG website. She said there are currently two active options (1) EPA hosting the CAG website, in which case EPA controls the content; or (2) the CAG hosts its own website, which would involve a cost of \$150/year. An EPA disclaimer would need to be on each page, and it would need to be accessible to the blind. The CAG would control the content. EPA could provide technical assistance on the web design if helpful.
- Dr. Ted Emmett will explore hosting the CAG website through the University of Pennsylvania.
- The non-CAG Citizens for a Better Ambler petition process is ongoing, with 2,321 signatures collected to date.

Health, Environment, Safety & Risks (HERS) Workgroup.

- Ted Emmett provided an update for the HERS group. This committee has not met in the last month. He introduced a physician colleague with an interest in epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania; she has a background in pulmonary medicine and is interested in working on re-construction of asbestos exposures in West Ambler.
- Sharon Vargus and Flo Wise asked Ted to make announcement requesting donations to purchase school supplies for West Ambler children. Any one interested is invited to write a check to Café Tea on North Main Street in Ambler or to WACA.

- ATSDR and PADOH are sponsoring a physician update/Grand Rounds on September 22, 2009 at Mercy Suburban Hospital. An ATSDR medical officer will share an update on asbestos medical screening. Local health professionals have been invited to attend.

Removal/Remediation & Monitoring Oversight (R/R&M) Workgroup.

- Eric Lindhult provided an update for this workgroup, which met on 8/3/09. The 7/6/09 workgroup comments and EPA's 7/21/09 response to these comments generated overall helpful information.
- The workgroup requests further explanation regarding the issue of potential re-contamination via the decontamination pad during major rain events. The workgroup requested a list of the documents under review by Stacie's contractors.

Discussion on DRAFT Comments on Proposed Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site (White Hills).

- Joanne led a discussion on EPA's request for comments on the proposed ESD on the Ambler NPL site (aka "White Hills"). Joanne received about 5 comments/suggestions/questions on the draft ESD, and she subsequently prepared consolidated comments for consideration by the CAG. This document was emailed to the CAG membership on 7/28/09. Dave Froelich also provided his own comments on the ESD and the proposed consolidated comments on 8/5/09, and his comments were distributed at the CAG meeting.
- The CAG members agreed to individually be signatories (or abstain) on the transmission to EPA of these consolidated comments on the Ambler ESD.

Future Plans Workgroup.

- Sal Boccuti provided an update for the Future Plans Workgroup, which met on 7/22/09. The group agreed to make the following recommendations to the full CAG:
 - Different Re-Use Scenarios: The CAG should communicate to the EPA that any re-use scenario which does not include public access, and is not aesthetically pleasing, is not acceptable. This applies as much to any type of fencing and signing that would be deemed necessary, as it does to the site itself.
 - Regional Planning by Local Municipalities: The CAG should encourage its members to communicate with their local municipalities in this regard. A discussion about "common ground" subjects by the entire CAG might be beneficial.
 - Effect of WACA Decision for a recreational building off the Borit site on Future Plans: None.
 - Rose Valley & Tannery Run Creeks Removal Action Solution: The CAG should discuss the permanence of the removal action solution with the EPA.

Observer comments.

- An observer from West Ambler discussed the impact the repeated flooding (such as occurred this past weekend) has had on the community.

Old/New Business.

- EPA announced that they will be answering questions from the CAG using the Email Journal process, as was used previously. The CAG co-chairs suggested that the workgroup chairs consolidate the questions from the areas of responsibility and submit these to the co-chairs. EPA also invited CAG participants to email questions to Francisco directly with the subject line "CAG Question" for incorporation into the monthly email journal. EPA will work with the CAG to optimize this process. EPA will collect all the questions that are submitted over a month, answer them, and then provide those answers to the CAG and the rest of the community in an Email Journal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Draft Summary (Pending Members Approval)