

BoRit Asbestos Super-fund Site Community Advisory Group
Ambler / Upper Dublin / Whitpain, Pennsylvania

Date: Wednesday, June 1st, 2011
Location: Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave. Fort Washington, Pa 19002
Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Attended by: See attached¹

6:30 p.m. Welcome & Announcements

- **Introductions:** None
- **Review Agenda:**
- **May Minutes:** Approved
- **Announcements:** None

6:40 p.m. Work group reports:

RR&M group:

The group met on May 31st 2011 to discuss several issues including: the expansion of interest of the CAG beyond the BoRit current boundaries; the CDM report on groundwater contaminants; the review of CDM report written by CAG member Gordon Chase and the EPA volume estimates of the asbestos contaminated material at BoRit.

The group agreed that it would recommend to the CAG an expansion of interest beyond the current defined BoRit site limits to include previous asbestos manufacturing sites in Ambler and the previously remediated Ambler piles superfund site.

The group reviewed the CDM and Gordon Chase reports regarding groundwater testing at the BoRit site. It was noted that several toxic contaminants existed at two orders of magnitude (100 times and more) above the regional screening limits (RSL) and also some contaminants at several times above maximum contaminant levels (MCL). It was noted that this degree of exceedance of EPA levels was not highlighted by the EPA during their presentation at the May CAG meeting and the RR&M group resolved to ask EPA at the next (June) CAG meeting why they had chosen not to quantify these exceedances during their presentation. It was also noted that EPA requested CDM not to make any recommendations for further field testing based on their findings and the RR&M group resolved to ask EPA why this request was made to CDM.

Mr Sal Boccuti advised that the estimate given by Kristine Matzko, of the EPA, of approximately 250,000 cubic yards of asbestos contaminated material at BoRit was based on an aerial photographic analysis dated April 2009. He noted that the analysis mentions two significant caveats: 1). It does not take into consideration the amount of contaminants in the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve reservoir; and 2). According to a Sanborn Map, shown as Figure 3A in the analysis, the parcel known as the “Kane Core” property was also a reservoir at one time. That reservoir was filled in prior to the date of any aerial photos used for the analysis. The volume of contaminants contained in that particular reservoir is, therefore, unknown. Taking into consideration the above two points, the indication is that the volume of contaminated material on the entire site, as presented by this analysis, could be significantly underestimated,., and that another calculation source should be considered. RR&M will ask the CAG co-chairs to request an updated estimate based on their core soil sampling.

Community Awareness Group:

The awareness group met to discuss how to get people to visit the BoRit.org web site. Facebook was suggested without a conclusion. Erecting 2 or 3 road signs along Mt. Pleasant

¹ No attendance list yet to hand

and Butler Ave that would say something simple like: Asbestos Superfund Site/ 2008 to present/
For information: www.BoRitCAG.org Web site traffic is being monitored by the awareness group. CA needs to check with each CAG member to ascertain they have the link on their websites.

We agreed that the public needs to know the following five things:

- i. Is the drinking water safe now and into the future?
- ii. Are there air emissions to be concerned about?
- iii. What conditions could stir things up to be less safe (tornado, flash flood, other severe impact)
- iv. What are the general EPA actions, process and timeline for the site
- v. What are the avenues for public input, and sources of information, now and in the future

Rules Committee:

The Rules group met to discuss the proposed change in meeting schedules. The recommendation to the CAG was to be cautious on changing the rule IVa regarding meeting schedule to every two months as this may prove undesirable if later the CAG feels the need to meet more often. Much debate followed among CAG members as to the need to change the wording in IVa at all as to some members it appeared to allow sufficient flexibility to reduce meetings when necessary, while still keeping the monthly schedule as default. Others preferred to regularise a bi-monthly meeting. The Rules Committee will recommend specific wording that would give the CAG the flexibility necessary to set a meeting schedule as desired/required.

HERS group: No meeting.

Future Uses group: No report

Discussions and Votes.

1. The July meeting cancellation was proposed and overwhelmingly agreed upon. The next CAG meeting will therefore be August 3rd 2011.
2. A straw poll to meet bi-monthly showed it was favored by the majority. As per the notes above, the Rules Committee will reconvene to consider the appropriate wording for a future vote.
3. Expansion of mission scope: Following the RR&M's recommendation to expand the CAG mission scope, discussion ensued resulting in a straw poll of 13/2/1 for/against/abstain. The abstention was from the Ambler Borough representative Pete Amento who advised the CAG prior to the vote that Ambler Borough felt it would be inappropriate for them to vote on this issue. There followed a proposal to form a committee to formulate the expansion of the mission scope and Dr Ted Emmet agreed to chair the new committee which will be comprised of CAG members Sharon McCormick, Gordon Chase, Kimberley Hirsberg, Lynn Hoffman and Eileen Fournier.

Minority view- Montgomery County and Whitpain Township both voted against expanding the mission. They felt that the CAG should focus on the scope for which it was originally convened.

Observer Comments

A new resident to Maple St., and first time visitor to the CAG Ms. Patricia Lorenzo spoke of her understanding that Ambler residents were *on the 1 yard line and needed only a final push to have the BoRit site finished and the fence taken down and trails added*. Ms Lorenzo was advised that in fact BoRit was only at the start of the investigation phase and that it would be several years,

perhaps a decade before the site was remediated. Furthermore the fence around the Ambler piles was still in place some 25 years after its remediation and that the fence around BoRit would likely be in place for decades.

A second observer wished to receive assurance that she was living in a safe area and that her children were safe from the asbestos. She was advised by CAG member Lora Werner that while no guarantees could be given, no data as yet indicated that she was not living in a safe area, though it had to be understood that she was living adjacent to an as yet un-remediated asbestos superfund site.

Open Comment Period

CAG member Gordon Chase asked the EPA to answer the two questions raised by the RR&M group concerning the exceedances found in the BoRit groundwater and the lack of recommendations from CDM considering its findings. EPA Remedial Project Manager Kristine Matzko responded that the previous month's presentation had highlighted those chemicals which exceeded the RSL and MCL maximums and that recommendations from CDM were not necessary at this time as the EPA would review the findings themselves. Mr. Chase acknowledged that though those contaminants in exceedance were mentioned, they were not quantified, which considering the high levels of exceedance (200 times in some cases) detailed by CDM was concerning, particularly as those contaminants found not in exceedance were quantified. It was all the more concerning as Ambler residents receive their drinking water from groundwater sources and that one of the Ambler Borough drinking water wells was just 500 yards from the BoRit site.

Discussion moved on to a proposal that the CAG write officially to Ambler Borough Water Department to advise them of the CDM report and Gordon Chase's review and to request Ambler Borough well water data to better understand the hydro-geology and determine if there were potential pathways of BoRit contaminants to the drinking water supply. Up to date data does not appear on the Ambler Borough Web site. This proposal was overwhelmingly approved. Two abstentions.

Finally, outstanding action items 100,109,123,124 and 125 were approved as retired and the meeting was adjourned.