

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Community Advisory Group Meeting

June 2013 Minutes

Date: June 5th 2013

Location: Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave, Fort Washington PA1 90002

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Bob Adams 6.35pm.

Item 1: Remedial update by Jill Lowe (EPA)

Ms Lowe advised the CAG that the background well was completed on Maple St in Whitpain Township May 13th 2013 and sampled the following week. In addition 10 background soil samples were taken from various locations and are currently undergoing laboratory evaluation. In addition, the groundwater wells will be sampled again in July. The validation of these results is scheduled to be within 42 days and Ms Lowe hopes to be able to present a review of these results for the next CAG meeting on August 7th 2013.

The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) have completed their site work at the reservoir parcel of the BoRit site and the results are currently undergoing laboratory evaluation. EPA hopes to have the USACE report of finding by August. Transducers for the existing monitoring wells and the reservoir will be recording water levels every 15 minutes for the next few months. A transducer will also be installed in the newly completed background well on Maple St.

Item 2: Work group reports

The only group to report was the RR&M, wherein the chairman (Gordon Chase) reported that the group met on April 24th and that full minutes of that report can be found at the CAG website (<http://www.boritag.org/pdf/RR&M%20Minutes%20April%2024th%202013.pdf>). Ms Lowe's attendance at that meeting was acknowledged as being very helpful, constructive and informative and was much appreciated by all work group members in attendance.

It was noted that the original USACE reservoir investigation document given to the CAG just prior to the RR&M meeting in April was dated May 2012 and there was concern that it had taken nearly a year to reach the CAG. EPA advised that the funding for this project had not been available until recently, hence the delay in forwarding the proposal to the CAG. The RR&M were appreciative that funding had been found for this project and await the outcome of the results with interest.

It was decided at the RR&M that the subject of ongoing ambient air monitoring needed to be revisited by the CAG and EPA. RR&M and CAG members felt strongly that if the BoRit and Ambler Piles sites are to remain in Ambler, as currently seems likely, then there is a need for an ongoing ambient air monitoring system to be in place. Currently there is no plan for any ongoing ambient air monitoring in the Ambler area. EPA requested that a formal and specific request be submitted via the

CAG co-chairs. Consequently the RR&M will reconvene to discuss the parameters and format of this request.

Whilst on the subject of air monitoring it was reported that recent aerial photo's of the site showed circular sprinkler operations on the park parcel wetting the rectangular area of recently positioned and covered ACM. These circular wetting areas clearly did not cover the full rectangular area of the ACM as is required. EPA advised they would check into this immediately and report back.

Item 3: Ambient air testing

See above under RR&M Work group report.

Item 4: Other business

CAG members were given a ball park estimate by EPA of the cost of removing the asbestos material completely from the BoRit site, which totalled approximately \$200 million. While this is indeed a large sum which led some CAG members to believe that such a sum would not be available, Ms McCormick pointed out that the current cost of the Libby MT asbestos cleanup was \$447m and that the volume of asbestos in Ambler was far greater than that in Libby MT. It was also pointed out that the formation of the EPA superfund was precisely to cover such large amounts that could not be funded by local communities and therefore the CAG should not be put off by the large sum estimated by EPA.

Mr Eric Cheung (CAG member representing the Clean Air Council) advised that the original funding of the superfund program had now been exhausted and that any new funds available to the EPA had to be sourced from Congress with many members of Congress reluctant to further fund the EPA. It was also confirmed by Ms Lowe that limited funds for superfund clean-up had to be apportioned among many superfund projects and that these projects had to be prioritized. A list of 9 criteria determine superfund priorities and details of these criteria can be found on the CAG web site at <http://www.boriticag.org/pdf/EPA%20nine%20criteria%20for%20remedial%20alternatives%20evaluation%20June%202013.pdf>

The subject of alternative remedies to removal arose citing the ARI technologies proposal of thermo-chemical remediation. Ms McCormick reiterated her previous views that the EPA needed to be more active in seeking new remedies for asbestos remediation, rather than the remaining with the basic cap and cover method that Ms McCormick advises has not proved successful or sustainable over the long term (e.g Ambler Piles). It was also noted that EPA do not take into account the opportunity costs of unproductive land (lost tax revenue, housing, industry etc) as a result of leaving asbestos in place for future generations. A discussion also ensued regarding the 12 year estimated time frame for removal of all ACM by road with its associated hazards.

CAG member Mr Otis Hightower expressed concerns regarding the water flow along Maple street now that a new curb and higher bank to the BoRit site was now in evidence. Concerns of water pooling in Maple Street needed to be allayed. It was suggested by EPA that a visit to the BoRit site by CAG members might be advantageous to view this and any other concerns regarding the new look BoRit site. This invitation was well received and will be co-ordinated through the RR&M work group. Whilst on the subject of flood control, it was noted that the Temple university Ambler flood study was due to be completed later this year.

Finally, a new alternate for Dr Emmet was introduced to the CAG, Dr Marilyn Howarth.

No other business being reported, the meeting was adjourned.

