



Citizens for a  
Better Ambler

February 19, 2011

Minority Report

BoRit Removal, Remediation and Monitoring January 25, 2011 Meeting Minutes

To the BoRit Asbestos Community Advisory Group

Citizens for a Better Ambler would like to express our disappointment regarding the direction of the R/RM workgroup as reflected in the meeting minutes for the January 2011 workgroup meeting, and respectfully request that several discussion topics be revisited in a future meeting prior to a formal white paper being written and presented to the CAG and USEPA.

1. CBA requests that the R/RM workgroup reconsider the possibility and probability of drinking water contamination emitting from the BoRit Asbestos Superfund site as a significant purview of the workgroup and of the CAG as a whole. CBA has found significant documentation in both old Ambler Gazette Newspapers and in EPA documents for both the Ambler Asbestos piles and the BoRit asbestos Superfund sites that substantiate a significant concern that asbestos and other toxins are emitting into the ground water, that asbestos pipes made at the Keasbey and Mattison asbestos factories are delivering drinking water to households in Ambler, Whitpain Township and Upper Dublin, and that a water source close to the factory facilities and asbestos piles may be the drinking water source for homes in South and West Ambler. CBA has provided the workgroup and CAG members with this information and is more than willing to furnish it again upon request. CBA believes that further discussion within the R/RM workgroup is necessary.
2. CBA requests that the R/RM workgroup recognize that several CAG members present at the January workgroup meeting found the most recent epidemiology report presented seemed incomplete and was lacking important lung cancer statistics, as admitted by the presenter of the report. CBA has provided the CAG and the R/RM workgroup information that states that the State of Pennsylvania ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for mesothelioma, an asbestos related disease, and finds this statistic alarming as it relates to the recent epidemiology report. CBA believes that further discussion is necessary and that deferring this topic to the HERS workgroup would be ideal.
3. CBA requests that the R/RM workgroup acknowledge that epidemiology reports are not an adequate assessment of current potential health risks associated with toxins documented at the

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, and that a workgroup request to EPA to clarify what tools , information and data are available to our community to adequately assess public health risks currently associated with the site may be warranted. CBA believes that further discussion is necessary and that deferring this topic to the HERS workgroup would be ideal.

4. CBA requests that the R/RM workgroup discuss at future workgroup meetings the pursuit of independent asbestos experts and the benefits of employing such experts to the workgroup and the CAG as a whole. In relation, CBA believes that the asbestos expertise of the EPA should be thoroughly researched and thus discussed by members of the R/RM workgroup at future workgroup meetings.
  
5. CBA requests that the R/RM workgroup discuss at future workgroup meetings the current USEPA removal action on the BoRit, the pros and cons of these actions, the effectiveness and the impact of these actions on the pending remedial action and permanent remedy yet to be decided upon by the EPA.

Citizens for a Better Ambler is dedicated to continue serving on the BoRit Asbestos Community Advisory Group and endeavors to have the pollution removed entirely from our community. CBA believes that fruitful, frank and meaningful discussion is the best way to obtain our goals.

Respectfully Submitted by

Daniel P. McCormick

Citizens for a Better Ambler

President

See RR&M minutes of January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting below:

## **Minutes**

### **BoRit Removal, Remediation and Monitoring Committee**

**January 24, 2011**

In attendance: Gordon Chase, Bob Adams, Sharon McCormick, Susan Curry, Diane Morgan and David Froehlich

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM at Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association offices.

Dave Froehlich said that he was confused by some of the data that had been presented to the CAG recently because it did not seem to address the most pertinent question, does the BoRit site today present health hazards to the community. He said part of his confusion arose from the recent discussion of asbestos water pipe and the possibility of asbestos in the Ambler Borough water supply. That did not seem directly related to BoRit and was diverting us from focusing on other pollutants at the site that might be more likely to migrate into drinking water supplies, such as arsenic and various VOCs.

The discussion at the RR&M noted that the Ambler Borough sampling of tap water is primarily concerned with ascertaining whether fibers from the asbestos piping system installed extensively during the 20th century, were finding their way into residents tap water. The Borough's piping system may not be part of the BORIT CAG's direct remit, but obviously the CAG does have a key interest in the results. Meanwhile the CAG awaits EPA well testing results to ascertain whether asbestos and other contaminants from the Borit site itself are migrating into the drinking water source. The group wondered why the results of the most recent ground water testing were taking so long to be reported. The group express concern about the delay and felt that the CAG should urge Kristin Matzko to expedite the release of the data and help us better understand why the release has taken so long. To help the CAG and public understand testing results the group also felt that CAG should urge EPA to give a summary presentation of results, as Stacy had done in the past, and to include an executive summary in future reports.

Some members of the RR&M committee also asked what the total volume of ACM at the BoRit site was. Sharon indicated that the number was available. The group asked that EPA supply an answer to that question.

Froehlich also said that he felt the recent epidemiological data relating to cancer in Ambler did not give us information on whether the BoRit site was dangerous in its present state. That is because asbestos related cancers have a long latency period so the data are a reflection of how hazardous the circumstances were twenty, thirty or even forty years ago. The group agreed and felt that it was important that the CAG was aware of what the cancer data was actually telling us.

That led to a discussion of the proposed presentation by the Amber Borough Water Department and what questions to ask them. After a brief discussion Susan Curry mentioned that she had a list of proposed questions that had been prepared partially by the HERS committee. She agreed to distribute that list to the RR&M committee.

The group then reviewed the conclusions of the meeting and the RR&M Committee suggests or requests the following:

1. The committee requests input from CAG, EPA and other committees regarding how to answer the question, "What data would help us determine if the BoRit site is presently either an immediate or long term health hazard to the community.
2. Recommend that the CAG urge Kristin Matzko to expedite the release of the data on the results of the most recent ground water testing or explain more fully why the release is being delayed
3. Requests that future reports contain an Executive Summary. This was not included in the Phase I report.
4. Requests a summary presentation to the CAG describing the data and results of recent tests.
5. Requests that EPA supply the CAG with the estimated volume of ACM within the BoRit site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.