



Penn SRP Center

Penn MEASURE

Mesothelioma and the Environment in Ambler Study: Understanding Risk from Exposures

Frances K. Barg, PhD
Douglas Wiebe, PhD

Edward Emmett, MD, MPH
Anil Vachani, MD, MSCE
Charles Branas, PhD

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site
Community Advisory Group Meeting
April 4, 2016



Penn SRP Center

Background

Over recent years we have learned a lot from the Community Advisory Group and from residents of Ambler regarding concerns and questions about the implications of living nearby and being involved in the asbestos manufacturing industry.

We would now like to partner with you to learn more about these implications.



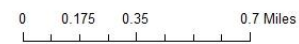
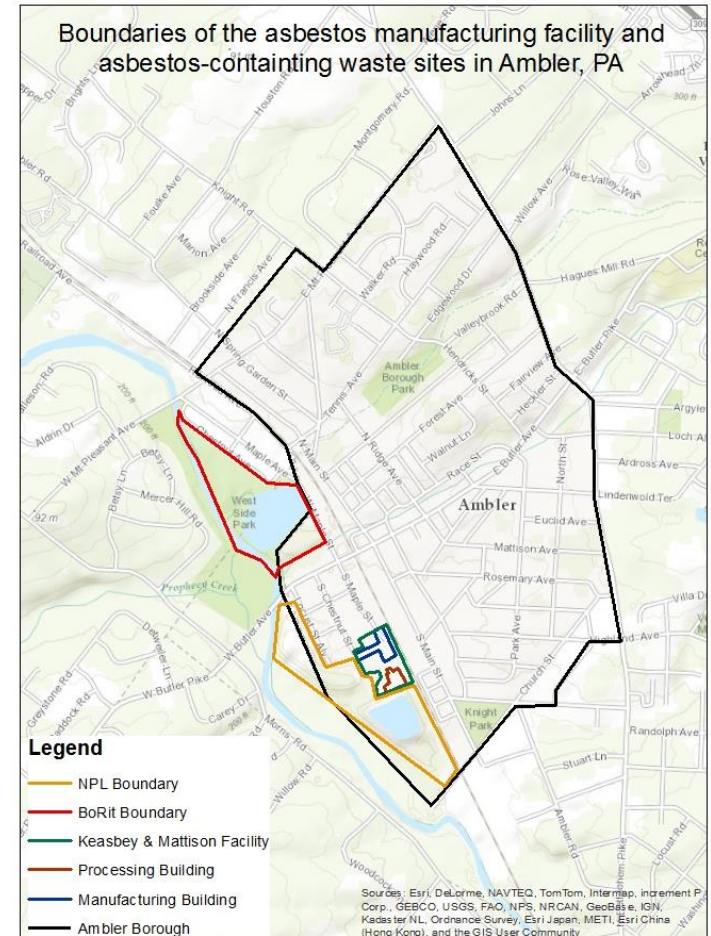
Penn SRP Center

Goal

We are preparing to launch a new study set in Ambler and the greater Ambler area.

Our goal is to understand the link between work, community and environmental exposure to asbestos and the risk for developing mesothelioma among residents of the Ambler area.

Ambler, Pennsylvania



NPL, BoRit and Keasbey & Mattison boundaries reproduced from the EPA Fourth Five-Year Review Report for Ambler Asbestos Piles Superfund Site, 2012
 P42 ES023720 Penn Superfund Research Program Center Grant, Project 3.



Penn SRP Center

Study Design

We aim to conduct a **case-control study** where we compare individuals who developed mesothelioma (cases) to individuals who lived in Ambler but do not have mesothelioma (controls).

We will look back over time to determine and compare how much exposure case subjects experienced and how much exposure control subjects experienced.

Case-Control Study



Disease

Present
(cases)

Absent
(controls)

(look backward
in time)

What % had
been exposed

What % had
been exposed



Penn SRP Center

Case participants

Participants who are case subjects in the study will be those who:

- **Have a diagnosis of mesothelioma**
- **Lived in the greater Ambler area at the time of diagnosis**
- **Have lived in the greater Ambler area for at least 5 years at the time of diagnosis**



Penn SRP Center

Control participants

Participants who are control subjects in the study will be those who:

- **Do not have a diagnosis of mesothelioma**
- **Are the same age and gender as a matched case participant at the time of the case participant's diagnosis**
- **Had lived in the greater Ambler area for at least 5 years prior to the matched case participant's diagnosis**



Penn SRP Center

What we are asking you?

- As a concerned member of the community:
 - How can we raise awareness about the study?
- As a person who qualifies as a case subject or as a control subject?

We would ask you to complete a survey, either in person or over the phone, with a member of our research staff. We would ask you questions about where you (or your loved one) have lived, for how long you (or your loved one) lived there, what jobs you (or your loved one) have had, your (or your loved one's) medical history, and any family history of mesothelioma. We will use these surveys to compare case subjects to control subjects, which will help us understand links between asbestos exposure and development of mesothelioma.



Penn SRP Center

Can we answer any questions?

We would appreciate your input:
Can you help us understand the best
ways to include members of the
community in this process?



Penn SRP Center

To provide input or to participate in
a survey, please contact us:

Sharon Vargas

215-898-4736

Or

Luke Basta

abasta@upenn.edu