

The Community Awareness Work Group of the BoRit CAG met on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. During this meeting group members discussed some high-anxiety concerns that many members of the wider community have raised regarding the recent EPA removal activities on the BoRit Asbestos Superfund site.

From June 30 to July 6, the following activities were reported:

1. Failure by EPA to notify the whole community of the timing of disturbance activities on the site.
2. Failure to alert the community to take precautions, i.e., keep doors and windows closed, avoid walking in the vicinity.
3. Trees being cut and moved on the site without sufficient dust suppression.
4. A boundary air monitor placed on the outside of the privacy-tarped fence instead of the inside.
5. Visibly large amounts of asbestos waste uncovered without being saturated with water during very dry and windy conditions. Photos do not show saturation. Sprinkler systems were not installed until nearly a week after activities began.
6. Workers not wearing any PPE while disturbing a known asbestos disposal site (tree cutting, trunk and brush moving, stump removal).
7. A large area of asbestos waste visible from the air left uncovered and open to the elements for hours and days
8. EPA's air testing reports during these activities report a high number of equipment failures, compromising the reliability of the data and adequacy of the air monitoring. Additionally, air particulate monitors were not being employed during this activity period.

The Community Awareness Work Group believes that the above constitute serious breaches of EPA's own safety protocols for disturbance of a known asbestos waste disposal site, and further, that these breaches in safety protocols may constitute a health and safety risk to the citizens of Whitpain, Upper Dublin and Ambler living in close proximity to the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site.

Therefore, the Community Awareness Work Group recommends to the CAG that a formal complaint to the Administrator of USEPA, Lisa Jackson, be sent on the community's behalf and that we ask for an Inspector General's investigation of EPA's activities during the Removal Action Phase of the Superfund process for the BoRit asbestos Superfund site.

We ask that both the HERS workgroup and RR&M workgroup discuss these seemingly improper activities in urgent mode within the next few days, then draft a letter for the CAG to endorse within a week.