

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813

August 18, 2006

Donald Welsh, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Charlene Creamer, Site Assessment Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. Welsh and Ms. Creamer,

Thank you for your previous correspondence regarding the Borit Asbestos Tailings Pile in Ambler, PA, and for working to determine the health and safety of this property.

As you know, concerns have been raised regarding the continued presence of asbestos at the Borit site. In response, the EPA tested environmental samples taken from the site on April 27, 2006. The results of these tests indicate that asbestos is present on the site and is migrating off-site into nearby surface water. In response, your agency is attempting to mitigate this problem by stabilizing the site. While I am pleased by this positive development, it is only a first step, and I would like to stress the need for the EPA to actively involve and maintain communications with the residents of Ambler and local stakeholders.

Specifically, Ambler residents have requested that the EPA hold a public meeting so that residents can be briefed about the EPA's findings. Once the EPA completes its analysis of the data, this request should be fulfilled. In addition to ensuring that this meeting takes place, the initial findings do raise some important questions that I would like you to address in writing by September 1, 2006:

- 1) When can the residents of Ambler expect a final report outlining the site conditions and sampling?
- 2) What is the timeline for the completion of the stabilization activity on the Borit site?
- 3) What plan does EPA have for communicating with Ambler residents about its mitigation and stabilization activities on the Borit site?
- 4) Will stabilization activities be undertaken in each of the three locations where EPA conducted testing?

- 5) What impact will these activities have on the businesses and residents that are located next to the site?

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allyson Y. Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

CC: Hon. Kathleen McGinty, Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Hon. Bud Wahl, Mayor of Ambler
Hon. Michael Gerber, Pennsylvania State Representative
Hon. Eugene McGill, Pennsylvania State Representative