

Dear Ms Roncetti,  
**Ambler Boro Water Dept (PWSID 1460020) Susceptibility waivers**

Your colleague at PADEP, Ms Lynda Rebarchak, advises that you are the person to contact regarding issues pertaining to the susceptibility waivers applied for by Ambler Boro (Borough) Water department and granted by PADEP.

I am the chair of the BoRit Community Advisory Group's (CAG) Removal, Remediation and Monitoring work group (RR&M) investigating issues arising from EPA activities at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund site in Ambler PA. As we have not communicated previously, I am unaware as to your familiarity with the EPA activities at BoRit or the extent of your knowledge regarding the contaminants found by EPA in the groundwater under the BoRit site. The EPA groundwater report issued in February 2011 can be found

at [http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887/documents/Preliminary\\_Phase\\_2\\_Groundwater\\_Report-2011.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887/documents/Preliminary_Phase_2_Groundwater_Report-2011.pdf). A brief summary of this report which highlights the contaminants of concern can be found at the CAG's Borit.org web site <http://www.boriticag.org/pdf/GLC%20evaluation%20of%20phase%202%20water%20sampling%20text.pdf>. Of the contaminants listed in the aforementioned reviews those of most concern are carbon Tetrachloride, Tetrachloroethene, Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and dioxins, the first three of which were all found at levels above the maximum contaminant level permitted for drinking water.

Our concern at the RR&M work group is that the community receives its drinking water supplies from various Ambler Borough ground water wells, some of which are less than 500 yards from the BoRit super-fund site (and adjacent Ambler Piles super fund site) at which the contaminated ground water was found (Ambler Borough wells #4 and #9). As such we were surprised to find that Ambler Borough has applied for and received exemptions for regular testing of their water supplies for the very contaminants that have been documented by EPA at such high levels in the groundwater so very close to these public wells.

It is our remit as a community advisory group to advise the public on operations at BoRit, but we would be at a loss to explain this apparent contradiction of prudent monitoring particularly when, according to PADEP records, Ambler Borough already has a history of Tetrachloroethene violations dating back to 1996 (wells #8 and #11). Knowing that these contaminants of concern are in the groundwater at a super-fund site very near to public wells, we would have assumed that PADEP would require more frequent rather than less frequent testing and certainly would not exempt the need for testing altogether as is the case for Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. We would much appreciate hearing from PADEP the rationale for the susceptibility waivers given to Ambler Borough despite the findings of contamination documented by EPA at BoRit and whether, in light of the foregoing, PADEP would consider reviewing the waivers given. We trust you will appreciate that as a community group we need to explain to the community at large and in plain English, what at first sight appears to be contrary to prudence. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely  
Gordon Chase  
Chair BoRit CAG RR&M work group  
Bob Adams, David Froehlich (Co-Chairs BoRit CAG)  
Sal Boccuti, Sharon McCormick, Susan Curry, Eileen Fournier, (BoRit CAG RR&M members)

Sent by Email. Jan 22nd 2012