

## Memo

**From:** Gordon Chase

**To:** BoRit CAG

**REF:** Expanding BoRit CAG sphere of interest to cover groundwater contamination.

**Date:** August 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

Dear CAG Members,

As regular attendees of the CAG meetings will be aware, I have been of the view that the risks to public health of the BoRit site are not solely from the asbestos that is above ground in plain view, but also from the hidden contaminants below ground and out of site. The groundwater investigations carried out by EPA revealed several contaminants far exceeding regional screening limits and in some cases far exceeding maximum/safe drinking water levels. I believe this is an area of real concern since almost all the drinking water in our community comes from ground water sources and many of our public drinking water wells are little more than a mile away from the BoRit and Ambler Piles sites, with the closest wells being just 400-500 yards away. In addition to the public water wells, there are also many private water wells in the vicinity.

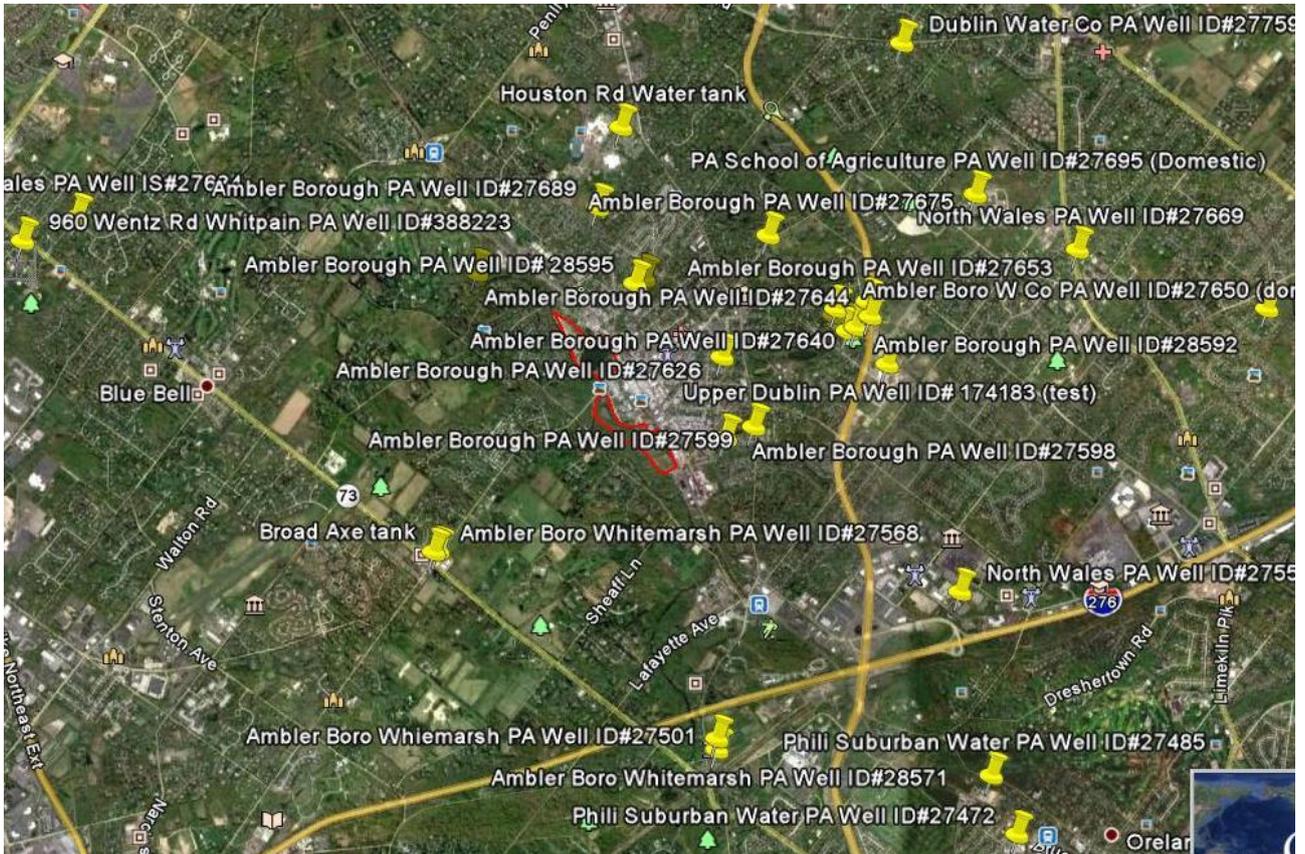
The drinking water supplies are monitored according to government regulation and there is no claim at this time that these water supplies do not currently meet government specification. However official records reveal that some of the most concentrated contaminants found in the groundwater under BoRit (e.g. PCE) have also been detected in public water well supplies. On some occasions the contaminant levels exceeded regulations and resulted in health violation notices to the water companies concerned. The fact that the contaminants found in public drinking water sources are the same as those found in BoRit groundwater does not, in and of itself, prove that one comes from the other, but it is self evident (at least to this author) that the relationship between the two needs to be investigated and the hydrology of the region needs to be fully understood in order to assess any health risks that BoRit may present to the community drinking water supplies.

I also believe that a reasonable hypothesis could be made that contaminants found under BoRit might also exist under the Ambler Piles site and in view of the proximity of the two sites it is also reasonable to hypothesize that the groundwater may be of a similar condition. One need not interfere with the Ambler Piles site in order to assess the groundwater conditions surrounding it, but by definition one does need to concern oneself with the area outside of the BoRit defined borders in order to assess the groundwater conditions surrounding BoRit/Ambler Piles sites and in the hydrology between them and the public/private drinking water sources. Therefore I am favour of extending the CAG's remit along the lines of the text suggested by Dr Ted Emmett.

Regarding Sharon McCormick's memo outlining all the possible asbestos exposure in the surrounding community, I acknowledge her concerns and these may be justified if the CAG were intent on investigating every case of asbestos contamination that exists outside of BoRit (which could in theory include every urbanized area in the country), but I think there is no intention of the CAG concerning itself with individual private residences and possible asbestos contamination thereof. As such I do not see the concerns Sharon highlights as being ones that the CAG will inevitably encounter by extending the sphere of influence. Having said that there is nothing to prevent the CAG from limiting its sphere of influence to certain parameters outside of the BoRit

boundaries to exclude certain issues such as private residences, but to include others such as public water supplies. One need not throw out the baby with the bath water, but I think that a reasonably drafted clause, such as that proposed, gives us the flexibility to investigate what is required while leaving alone that with which we do not wish to concern ourselves.

Finally, I believe that the map below showing most of the public water wells in the area, (with the BoRit and Ambler Piles sites outlined roughly in red) should quickly convince any of those undecided, for the need of the BoRit CAG to actively seek a full investigation of the groundwater conditions and hydrology of the region and to do that we would be well advised to officially sanction the proposed expansion of BoRit CAG's sphere of interest.



Google Earth map showing public drinking water wells and BoRit/Ambler Piles (in red).

I hope CAG members find this information of use when it comes to determining their vote on this subject.

Sincerely

Gordon Chase