

HERS Work group Monthly Call, 11/1/10, 9:30 am. Barb Allerton, Jane Cero, Ted Emmett, Lynn Hoffman, Sharon McCormick, Ana Pomales and Lora Werner participated.

The next HERS phone call is scheduled for 11/22/10 at 9:30 am.

Ted and likely Lora as well will not be at the November CAG meeting this week. Barb Allerton has agreed to give the HERS work group report.

1. Public Water Supply: The group discussed the status of the Amber Borough water supply testing for asbestos. Asbestos testing of the source water for the public water supply was conducted in the past, but the full report for this testing has not been located. Asbestos testing of the public water supply after it has traveled through the distribution system is planned. It will be conducted by the Borough per agreement with PADEP earlier this year. Lynn requested a summary of the routine chemical water testing conducted by the public water supply in comparison to the chemicals detected by EPA in the phase 1 remedial investigation of ground water under the Borit site. Sharon requested details on where in the system this testing is conducted and how often. Lora will work on this request with PADEP and the Borough.

2. Private Wells: Lora conducted a review of the Montgomery County Department of Health database of private wells in the vicinity of the site. This database is not comprehensive but it does include a few wells within 2 miles or so of the site. Lora will share this information along with the private wells located by Gordon with EPA for consideration in their future ground water sampling plans. Lynn suggested language on the issue of private well water quality should be included in the next EPA Borit newsletter. Lora said public health agencies always recommend that private well owners test their well water. Sharon stated that private well owners should be cautioned that even if contamination is detected (by themselves or by EPA) it may not be determined to be site related and/or not at a level requiring EPA action, and then they are on their own. Lora will develop language on this issue for EPA to consider including in a future newsletter.

3. The group discussed a possible letter on the public health benefits of green open space at length. Lora and Ana shared a memorandum with the work group summarizing the literature in this area. Lynn and Sharon raised concerns that this kind of letter would be construed as supporting recreation directly on the asbestos pile. Ted felt this kind of letter would support potentially a more rigorous cleanup consistent with safe recreational uses. Sharon will develop language that emphasizes any public health recreational benefits are predicated on the contamination on the site being appropriately addressed first. Ted will develop language that addresses the issue of the environmental justice impacts on West Amber of their prior open space/recreational area being taken away from them in the past. Ted would like to have this work group letter finalized in the next few weeks.

4. Lora briefed the group on her meeting with Leo Mullins at EPA. He is continuing property/deed searches in the entire historical site area. Much of the information he is developing is confidential at this time. His efforts are consistent with the needs raised by the HERS group in last month's call.

5. Lynn mentioned a neighbor in his 50s recently died of meso. Barb asked that Lynn share any additional information she can locate on this case with PADOH, and Lynn agreed. Barb will also request an update from the state cancer registry for the site area.

6. Lynn said the Borit CAG website may be live soon, and Gordon may be contacting Lora to post the site health consultation documents. Others who have documents they would like to post should consider what would be appropriate.