

## BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Community Advisory Group Meeting

Ambler/Upper Dublin/Whitpain Pennsylvania

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Location: Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave. Fort Washington  
PA 19002

### **Welcome & Announcements**

Meeting called to order by Co- Chair Bob Adams at 6:40 p.m. January meeting minutes were approved. Mr. Bob Adams noted that today's meeting represents the cancelled February meeting. The April CAG meeting will be a regularly scheduled meeting.

### **Ruth Wuenschel- Topic: Communicating with your group**

Ms. Ruth Wuenschel thanked the CAG members for their involvement. Ms. Wuenschel inquired into the extent of communication between individual CAG members and the groups they each represent. Ms. Wuenschel stated that the goal is to ensure open dialogue between EPA and the communities through the CAG. Mr. Bob Adams opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Gordon Chase stated that the CAG website is the main resource for the community and the minutes of each meeting are available there. Ms. Sharon McCormick questioned whether EPA was delegating the role of community involvement to the CAG members and requested a copy of the CIP. Ms. Lora Werner asked for clarification on the differences between the roles of the EPA and the CAG with the constituents. Mr. Vance Evans clarified that the CAG is the trustworthy source to the communities it represents. He stated that it is important for the CAG to be an independent entity from EPA and that separate meetings held by CAG members would benefit the community. Mr. Gordon Chase and Ms. Ruth Wuenschel will coordinate a link to the EPA'S Community Involvement Plan on the CAG website. Discussion ensued about improvement in communication on current and ongoing site events. The following suggestions were given:

- Use of the Patch news system, particularly targeting Ambler and Upper Dublin
- Use of Twitter and Facebook for daily updates or new events
- Coordination of an email mailing list by Ms. Ruth Wuenschel for faster contact than traditional mailing. EPA would initiate this.
- Mr. Dave Froelich advised that paper mailings continue to benefit residents, especially those closest to the site.

- Use of Public Service Announcements to advertise CAG meetings.

### **Rules Committee Membership Report**

Mr. Sal Boccuti and Ms. Kimberly Hirschberg advised that the Rules Committee agreed that those seats without representation at less than 3 meetings would vacate their seats. The CAG approved and declared both the Upper Dublin Citizen at Large seat and the Whitemarsh seat as vacated. With these vacated seats, three vacancies exist. Ms. Kimberly Hirschberg motioned to change the specific geographical Citizen at Large seats to “Montgomery County Citizen at Large”. Discussion ensued and two of the three seats were approved and renamed as just “Citizen at Large”, with noted objections from Ms. Lynn Hoffman and Ms. Sharon McCormick. Both members suggested a technical or specific seat name to hone a representative that would complement the need of the group. Mr. Andrew Salvador, who arrived later in the meeting, was strongly suggested by members of the group to fill one of the vacancies.

### **Observer Comments**

There were no observer comments at this time.

### **Next Steps and Old Business**

CAG members strongly suggested further reservoir study. Ms. Jill Lowe advised that EPA is currently discussing if further sampling is needed. Ms. Jill Lowe and Mr. Joe McDowell confirmed that ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) is currently visible on the limited area of the reservoir that was visible and EPA is acting under “presumptive remedy”. Ms. Jill Lowe defined the phrase presumptive remedy to the group as acting upon evidence already found at the site; no further sampling is needed to proceed. Mr. Gordon Chase noted that sampling only what is visible and not penetrating below the reservoir is making conclusions based on only half of the Site. Ms. Jill Lowe noted that ACM is presumed to be below ground level but Mr. Chase countered that other toxins not yet discovered could be found with further sampling. Mr. Chase noted that the Remedial Investigation cites EPA is responsible for investigating the nature and extent of contamination at the entire Site. . Ms. Lowe advised that the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA Region III representatives at the site are working with management and a plan of action will be made available to the CAG. . Ms. Sharon McCormick noted that complete sampling is in the community’s best interest.

Discussion ensued concerning the groundwater and reservoir pool. Ms. Jill Lowe confirmed that tests of the surface water show only asbestos and nothing else above action level, and that the groundwater wells show similar results. Mr. Sal Boccuti asked who was currently in charge of the reservoir; Ms. Jill Lowe

confirmed Eduardo Rovira was currently in charge of the reservoir and further stated that the reservoir will be drained and the berms will be covered. Data from any sampling conducted will be documented as Phase 4 of the Remedial Investigation (RI) or an addendum to the RI. Gordon Chase cited that the location of the sampling creates variances in the results and suggested groundwater sampling directly in the center at the core of the reservoir in addition to the perimeter samples already taken

Mr. Sal Boccuti expressed concern about erupting springs. Mr. Joe McDowell and Ms. Jill Lowe explained that the GCL Geotextile would cover the Wissahickon and Rose Valley areas; the bottom of reservoir is being discussed. Mr. McDowell advised that the springs will not affect the covering; GCL/Geotextile will be used on suspect embankments and the other areas will be treated with either clean clay fill or sandy fill. CAG members expressed concern about a possible dry bottom on the reservoir. Ms. Lowe foresees a wetland area with submerged aquatic vegetation; Mr. Joe McDowell stated that the current design uses different permeability covers to avoid the reservoir becoming a “closed bathtub”. In regard to drainage, Mr. Gordon Chase questioned whether filters were analyzed. EPA stated that the filters were not being analyzed, just the influent and effluent water

Mr. Sal Boccuti questioned the fish in the reservoir and Ms. Jill Lowe responded that Fish and Wildlife and PA Fish and Boat have determined that the fish are not a high enough quality to be concerned with moving them.

Mr. Gordon Chase addressed the TASC Request to monitor the surrounding air in the Ambler area. CAG agreed that questions for Mr. Webber will be developed after his presentation on air monitoring techniques at the April meeting.

### **New Business**

Mr. Gordon Chase incurred a website expense of \$270.00. Ms. Ruth Wuenschel will inquire into EPA reimbursement or assistance.

Ms. Sharon McCormick informed the group about two tracts of asbestos land currently proposed for building sites in Ambler. It was brought up that these Sites have nothing to do with the BoRit CAG. Ms. McCormick noted that the CAG had voted to expand the scope of the CAG to include such sites.

Mr. Gordon Chase reported that the RR&M committee reports are on the website which includes the pros and cons of both economic and environmental issues of removing all of the asbestos at the Site. CAG members continued to debate the issues. Mr. Chase advised all present to visit the website for information on the meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Co-Chair Bob Adams at 8:55 pm

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2014.

