

Roncetti, Nancy Jan 30 2012

Dear Mr. Chase,

Thank you for your email inquiry regarding the Borough of Ambler's public water system.

Our review of the data regarding the monitoring wells installed by EPA as part of the BoRit project indicates that these are very shallow wells, less than 100 feet deep, as opposed to the closest Ambler wells, which range from 300 to 438 feet in depth. Additionally, the EPA's "Phase 2 Groundwater Report" describes the groundwater in the shallow bedrock flowing toward the Wissahickon Creek, as expected, and away from the public water supply wells. The deeper aquifer layers tend to be under confined (pressurized) conditions, and would therefore not be susceptible to contamination from the surface. The shallower layers are unconfined, and are more likely to be impacted by surface conditions.

You mention several contaminants of concern noted in EPA's reports as being present in the shallow wells, Carbon Tetrachloride, Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), Bis(2ethylhexyl)Phthalate, and Dioxin. Ambler's finished water monitoring results show the following:

- There have been no detects of Carbon Tetrachloride at any of the Ambler entry points dating back to 1996.
- In 1996 and 1997, and once in 2002, there were Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), detects in several Ambler entry points, one of which slightly exceed the maximum contaminant level of 0.005 mg/l. There have been no detects at any of these entry points since 1997. If indeed any of the wells were contaminated with PCE, we would expect to see persistent detects, not one time occurrences. Thus these detects appear to be anomalies that could be attributed to sampling or laboratory errors.
- Dating back to 1995, there have been no detects of Bis(2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate in any of Ambler's entry points. Samples collected in 2011 reaffirmed continued non-detection of this compound.
- All sample results for Dioxin collected in 2011 were non-detect at all of Ambler's entry points.

Based upon the lack of any monitoring data that would evidence contamination of Ambler's drinking water sources, coupled with the protection provided by the direction of groundwater flow, distances, well depths and confinement of the aquifer, waivers were granted for the above mentioned contaminants.

If you would like to make an appointment to review any of DEP's records regarding Ambler's public water system, please contact our Records Management staff at [484-250-5910](tel:484-250-5910).

Sincerely,

Nancy Roncetti

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