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News

Removal process continues at BoRit

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By THOMAS CELONA
For The Times Herald

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently continuing Phase II of the removal process at the BoRit asbestos site, with an anticipated completion date of late January pending no major weather delays.

Phase II of the project encompasses the stabilization of the Rose Valley Creek stream banks between Whitpain Park and the reservoir to “address the short-term, potential risk” at the site, according to a removal program update prepared by the EPA.

Work on Phase II began in September.

To prevent erosion of asbestos-containing materials into the water, the EPA has been placing cable-concrete mats on the streambed and along the stream banks.

Additionally, the creek has been widened during the removal action. EPA crews then built a 100-foot retaining wall near the Rose Valley headwall, according to the EPA update. The retaining wall will provide additional support to the reservoir berm in response to the creek widening.

Another component of the work at the Rose Valley Creek site has been the removal of a large amount of debris, some of which contained asbestos.

As of Nov. 20, the EPA had removed approximately 1,250 tons of ACM and organic debris to a landfill, according to the BoRit Web site. Approximately 17,085 cubic yards of clean fill has also been delivered to the site.

The Rose Valley Creek is the second area to receive removal action this year after the EPA completed the removal process along the Wissahickon Creek in the spring in Phase I.

The Phase I removal work included removing large pieces of ACM, installing Geocells on the stream banks, leveling the stream banks with clean fill and topsoil and seeding the stream bank, according to the EPA update.

While work continues on the removal stage, the EPA has begun the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, an approximately three-year process that will examine current

site conditions and evaluate a number of potential remedial approaches.

It was an important year for the BoRit site, as it was listed on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List April 8, prompting the EPA to begin a removal program and to start a long-term investigation of the site that will lead to eventual remediation.

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