

Conference call notes EPA/SKEO/RR&M February 13th 2014

Participants: J.S. Webber Ph.D (Consultant retained by Skeo Solutions), Amanda Goyne Ph.D (Skeo Solutions), Ruth Wuenschel (EPA) Bob Adams (CAG Co-Chair) Diane Morgan (CAG Co-Chair) Gordon Chase (Chair CAG RR&M workgroup).

A conference call was held at 1.00pm Thursday February 13th between the above participants to discuss an air monitoring project requested by BoRit CAG and approved by EPA resulting in a TASC grant to fund Skeo Solutions' retainer of an expert ambient air asbestos consultant, James Webber Ph.D.

The scope of the project is for Skeo solutions to advise the BoRit CAG as to what technologies and techniques are best suited to provide an ongoing, long term monitoring system of the ambient air in and around the superfund sites, encompassing the town of Ambler PA and its environs.

The CAG representatives outlined for the benefit of Prof. Webber, who has not visited the area in question, the geographical nature of the BoRit site and its adjacent sister site, the now remediated Ambler Piles site. The vegetated differences between the two sites were emphasized, BoRit being denuded of trees and Ambler Piles being mostly forested after remediation. Links to the boritcag.org web site featuring the aerial photographic progress of the BoRit site were subsequently forwarded to assist Prof. Webber in his familiarization of the area.

The proximity of residential housing to both sites was noted together with the fact that there is currently no ongoing monitoring of ambient air for asbestos and no current plan for monitoring after the remediation process is complete, other than the standard 5 yearly EPA review. It was noted that if this were a petrochemical/refinery site there would be 24 hour ambient air monitoring for hydrocarbons and if this were a nuclear site there would be 24 hour monitoring for radiation. The CAG feel it is appropriate to have a permanent asbestos monitoring system in place for Ambler as the two superfund sites will likely remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Lacking the technical knowledge necessary to formulate a request for an appropriate air monitoring system, the CAG requested a TASC grant such that an expert could advise the CAG on exactly what systems are available and what would be the most appropriate monitoring system for the Ambler region. This summarizes the expectations that the CAG wishes to see fully addressed by Prof. Webber in his final report to the CAG.

The subject of asbestos measurement standards, fiber lengths/ toxicity and relevance of asbestos in forested areas were discussed. It is expected that Prof. Webber will include these issues in his deliberations and final report to be presented to the full CAG meeting on April 2nd 2014 at the usual venue of the Upper Dublin Township building.

To avoid any possible confusion that might arise from the unfamiliarity of Prof. Webber to the superfund sites in question and the Ambler area in general, we feel it important to point out here that the BoRit superfund site currently under remediation consists of three named parcels identified as: the park parcel, the reservoir parcel and the pile parcel. The pile parcel within the BoRit superfund site can easily be confused with the similarly named Ambler Piles superfund site, which is the remediated (forested) site adjacent to the BoRit superfund site. To add to the confusion the pile parcel within the BoRit site is the nearest parcel to the old Ambler Piles superfund site. Care needs to be taken when reading the historical and current literature on these two sites not to conflate the pile parcel within BoRit with the Ambler Piles superfund site.

CAG members look forward to assisting Prof. Webber with any questions he may have, to which end email addresses were exchanged to facilitate communication.