U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia

BoRit Superfund site Community Update

Ambler borough, Upper Dublin & Whitpain townships, Pa **Spring 2013**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site in Ambler, PA. The Site was used from the 1930s to the 1970s to dispose of asbestos-containing materials (**ACM**) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products plant.

The Site is divided into three distinct sections: the Reservoir; the Pile; and the former Park Area. This fact sheet is an update on cleanup accomplishments and next steps. EPA will continue to keep the community informed as work progresses.



The Pile Cover is complete. Aerial photo courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti.

What work was recently completed?

- **The Pile cover has been completed.** The cover, which exceeds federal requirements, stabilizes the Pile and protects human health and the environment by containing the ACM. The cover consists of a geotextile (fabric) liner, a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, and vegetation and erosion control mats. A **drainage swale** was built along the perimeter of the Pile to manage storm water runoff. An **access ramp** to the top of the Pile was built for future maintenance.
- **Site's adjacent stream banks have been stabilized.** The Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run were stabilized to keep ACM from entering these waters. Due to damage from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, EPA had to re-do the work along Rose Valley Creek. During the reconstruction, heavier cable-concrete mats were used along the creek bed, and rip rap stone was used along the banks to help withstand future weather events (photos next page).

Reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek Completed



Reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek, looking upstream.



Rose Valley Creek, from the ramp to/from the Park.

What work is ongoing?

- **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** is studying the Reservoir to better understand its hydrology and berm stability. The Corps will provide recommendations from the study on how to cover the ACM along the inside banks of the Reservoir. Work at the Reservoir is expected to start this summer.
- **EPA completed the design for the Park Area cover.** The cover design for the Park Area uses the same approach as the Pile Area. Geotextile fabric and a minimum of two feet of clean fill will be placed over the entire 11 acres. Then, the area will be hydroseeded to promote vegetation, and straw mats will be installed for erosion control. Trees and shrubs will be planted in specific areas (e.g., along the alleyway).
- **Completion of Park Area cover is delayed.** EPA was expecting to complete the work at the Park Area this year; however, since we will be covering the ACM along the inside banks of the Reservoir, we need to use portions of the Park Area to stage equipment during the Reservoir work. The Park Area will be covered once the Reservoir work is completed.
- **The fence along the alley has been removed** and replaced with temporary fencing, which will stay in place for the foreseeable future. The slope along the alleyway has been cut back to a stable gradient, and a trench has been excavated to prepare the area for a new curb and planting area (see photos next page).

Work along the alleyway for new curb and planting area



View of working excavation along the alleyway at the north end of the Site, facing south.



View of the working area along the alleyway by the Rose Valley headwall, facing north.

What's next in the Investigation process?

- **Groundwater sampling.** EPA will collect the second of three rounds of groundwater samples in May 2013. The third round is planned for July 2013. EPA will again sample for a variety of contaminants including: asbestos, volatile organics, semi-volatile organics, metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and inorganics.
- **Background* groundwater well monitoring.** EPA plans to install a groundwater monitoring well at a background location to sample the groundwater that is in the vicinity of the Site, but that is not being influenced by any site operations.
- **Background* soil sampling.** EPA plans to take background soil samples in June 2013. Locations need to be identified and access confirmed prior to the sampling.
- **Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).** EPA will prepare the final RI/FS Report which will include the investigation results, the Human Health Risk Assessment, and the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment. The Report will also evaluate the options for a final site remedy. The conclusions from the final RI/FS will be included in EPA's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP will describe EPA's preferred option for a final site remedy. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the RI/FS and our preferred remedy.

*** Background samples are taken for comparison, from areas far enough away from a site, so as not to be influenced by any potential contamination at the Site.**

For More Information

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Websites:

- www.epaosc.org/borit (EPA Removal Info.)
- www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm (EPA Remedial Info.)
- www.BoRitCAG.org (Community Advisory Group's website)

New EPA Team Member on Board

The BoRit Asbestos team welcomes Jill Lowe, Licensed Professional Engineer, as the new Remedial Project Manger. Jill has been working as an Environmental Engineer since 1980 beginning with the U.S. Navy, Lakehurst, NJ. She started her career as a Remedial Project Manager with the EPA in 1998, and has managed various complex sites in Eastern Pennsylvania. Jill will continue to move the Site through the long-term Remedial cleanup.

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