



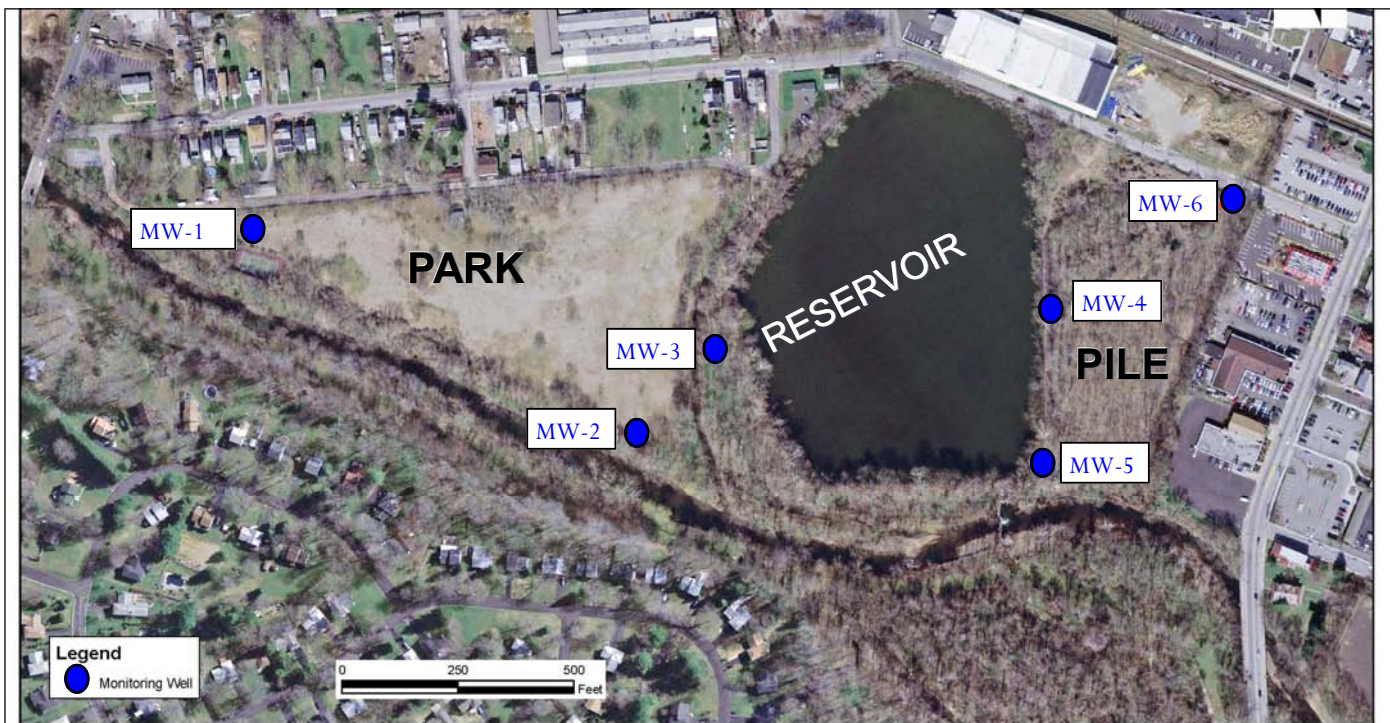
# BoRit SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE



AMBLER BOROUGH, UPPER DUBLIN & WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS, PA

JULY 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, located in Ambler, PA. The Site was used to dispose of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products manufacturing plant that was in operation from the 1930s to the 1970s. The Site is divided into three sections: a reservoir; a pile; and a closed park. This fact sheet is an update on both Removal (short-term) and Remedial (long-term) activities occurring at the Site. EPA will continue to keep the community informed as work progresses.



As part of the long-term investigation of the BoRit Asbestos Site, EPA is collecting soil, air and water samples to help fully evaluate Site conditions. This fact sheet contains a brief summary of the Groundwater Monitoring results. The complete Groundwater Monitoring Results Report is available online at:

[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm)

To monitor groundwater quality, EPA installed and sampled six wells throughout the Site area, at depths ranging from 50 to 100 feet. The samples were tested for a comprehensive list of chemicals, including solvents, metals, pesticides and asbestos.

The results show that there were several chemicals detected, including asbestos, metals and solvents. EPA will continue to monitor the groundwater from these well locations. (See map above. Location indicators are not to scale)

**Residents in the area are not drinking this groundwater.** Residents use a public water source for their drinking water, which must meet EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

## REMEDIAL PROGRAM'S GROUNDWATER MONITORING RESULTS

### Results at a Glance

**This is a brief narrative of the findings. The full Groundwater Monitoring Results Report is available online at: [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm).**

- MW-1 (73 ft. in depth) is located at the park and no contaminants were detected.
- MW-2 (63 ft. in depth) is located at the park and two solvents were detected (carbon tetrachloride and tetrachloroethene) at levels above drinking water standards (see Table below).
- MW-3 (53 ft. in depth) is located between the park and the reservoir and two metals were detected (arsenic and manganese). Arsenic was detected below the MCL and manganese does not have an MCL.
- MW-4 (100 ft. in depth) is located between the reservoir and the pile and two contaminants were detected (asbestos and manganese). Asbestos was detected below the MCL and manganese does not have an MCL.
- MW-5 (64 ft. in depth) is located at the pile and two metals were detected (arsenic and manganese) Arsenic was detected below the MCL and manganese does not have an MCL.
- MW-6 (53 ft. in depth) is located at the pile, near Maple Street, and one metal was detected (manganese), which does not have an MCL.

EPA has not drawn any final conclusions from this set of sampling data. These results will be part of the ongoing Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). EPA plans to collect additional data at these well locations to monitor groundwater quality.

### Groundwater Analysis

The groundwater samples were tested for a full range of chemicals, including: Volatile organic compounds (VOCs); semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs); polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); pesticides; metals; and asbestos.

<u>Chemical Compound</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>MCL</u>
Arsenic	7.6 ppb	10 ppb
Manganese	9620 ppb	None
Asbestos	0.51 mfl	7.0 mfl
Carbon Tetrachloride	5.8 ppb	5.0 ppb
Tetrachloroethene	22 ppb	5.0 ppb

### Reading the Results Summary Table

The “**Result**” column shows the highest levels of a chemical compound we detected in groundwater sampling results.

The “**MCL**” column shows what the Maximum Contaminant Level. MCLs are the highest allowable amounts of a chemical in drinking water, based on EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Please keep in mind that in this area, residents are not drinking this groundwater.**

Nearby residences use a public water source which must meet federal Safe Drinking Water standards prior to being distributed.

### Quick-Fact-Check Info



The following information is provided to address some recent questions or concerns about the BoRit Asbestos Site that have been brought to EPA's attention.

#### Q. Is EPA done with work and leaving the Site?

No. The Removal Program's work to stabilize the creek banks and pile is near completion. The Removal Program's next steps will be to provide additional soil cover to the park area before finalizing their work. In the meantime, EPA moved out of the field house on Maple Avenue and into an office trailer in the park area of the site, off of Oak Street. EPA's phone number has stayed the same (215) 654-5190.

EPA's long-term Remedial Program's work is ongoing and will take several years to complete. Although their work will not be as visible onsite as the Removal Program's has been, the project manager Kristine Matzko, will be available for questions or comments about the site, at: (215) 814-5719, or contact Trish Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (215) 814-5539.

#### Q. Is EPA investigating other properties in Ambler for Site-related contamination?

EPA has received information from the BoRit Community Advisory Group (CAG) regarding historical asbestos manufacturing and processing details in Ambler, dating back several decades. EPA is looking into the information provided by the CAG.

EPA is also currently coordinating with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on some similar, ongoing projects that they have oversight of, such as asbestos abatement of the former Nicolet Manufacturing property and the former Boiler House building. These properties are located near the Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site, which was delisted from EPA's National Priorities List in 1996.

#### Q. How can I get more information about the groundwater monitoring results?

Yes. Although this fact sheet provides only a brief overview of the key groundwater monitoring results, EPA is providing the entire Groundwater Monitoring Results Report document to the public online at: [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmnd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmnd/npl/PAD981034887.htm). The full report is about 63 pages long, including data tables and diagrams and is much more comprehensive than the summary provided here.

### Meet With Your Community:

The Community Advisory Group for the BoRit Site meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Ash Avenue, Fort Washington, Pa. All meetings are open to the public. We invite all citizens to get involved and stay informed about the cleanup of the site.

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## REDEVELOPMENT IN AMBLER

EPA supports the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties. In Ambler, there are two properties where this redevelopment is underway.

### **Ambler Boilerhouse Property:**

The Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields grant, to help fund initial cleanup costs of the Boilerhouse property. To date, all of the asbestos abatement work has been completed. For more information, contact Ms. Glen Sweet, Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority at (610) 275-5300.

### **Former Nicolet Manufacturing Building:**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) is overseeing the asbestos abatement and demolition work being done by the property owners. The Borough of Ambler and the property owners continue to work on security concerns. For more information on this project, contact PADEP at (484) 250-5991.



### Paper Reduction Effort

If you no longer wish to receive these Community Updates in the mail, please contact Trish Taylor at (215) 814 5539 or (800) 553-2509, or email at [taylor.trish@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.trish@epa.gov)

If you're leaving a message, please make sure to include the Site name (BoRit Asbestos) with your full name and mailing address, stating that you'd like to be removed from the mailing list.

These Community Updates will continue to be available on-line at:

[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm)



## Units of Measurement

When reading groundwater data, you may see the symbol  $\mu\text{g/L}$  or abbreviation ppb.

- ◆ Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) is a measure of the mass of a chemical compound per liter of water. This measurement is more commonly converted to parts per billion (ppb).
- ◆ An analogy for 1 ppb is one drop of chlorine in an Olympic-sized swimming pool, or one penny out of 10 million dollars.
- ◆ Asbestos is usually measured in fiber counts. The MCL for asbestos is 7 million fibers per liter (mfl). Although the water tested here is not used for drinking, the MCLs are a good way to measure and evaluate levels of contamination that may exist.

## UPDATE ON EPA'S REMOVAL PROGRAM CLEANUP ACTIVITIES



**Photos:** 1) Vegetation at the top of the Phase I area along Wissahickon Creek adjacent to the park; 2) vegetation along the Phase II area along Rose Valley Creek; and 3) view of the 8-foot-diameter pipe in Tannery Run.

Work along the Phase IV area (Tannery Run) has been completed. An 8-foot-diameter pipe was installed (Photo 3); the area around and above the pipe was backfilled, compacted, graded, topsoil was added, then hydroseeded to promote vegetation.

Currently, we are working on stabilizing the Phase V slope (from the dam in the Wissachickon Creek to its confluence with Tannery Run). The area will be stabilized by using geocells, just like the Phase I slope (Photo 1). This work is estimated to be completed around mid August. See photos of geocells and other materials being used at: [www.epaossc.org/borit](http://www.epaossc.org/borit)

### Next steps:

- Once Phase V work is completed, EPA will cover any remaining ACM-exposed areas on the pile and stabilize the entire pile by placing about 18 inches of clean fill, including topsoil, followed by hydroseed to promote vegetation. This stabilization work involves removing the remaining trees on top of the pile, to allow for additional backfill and grading to occur.
- Next, EPA will continue with the current scope of work to include soil coverage for the park portion of the Site. EPA's plans for the park will be similar to the work at the pile, including placing a uniform cover of clean fill and top soil, followed by hydroseed to promote vegetation. The work will involve removing the remaining trees at the park, to allow for additional backfill and grading to occur. The Park area will be the last portion of the site to be addressed before transferring the cleanup to EPA's Remedial Program.
- The Remedial Program is a long-term process and a permanent remedy for the Site, including all three areas, has not been selected yet. In the meantime, the Removal Program's goal is to remove immediate potential risks and to stabilize the site as much as possible before its portion of the work is finished.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED

### EPA's Field Office Relocated!

**We've moved** into an on-site trailer located at **49 Oak Street**.

We're still working on the Site and available to you, so stop by the office trailer if you have questions about the ongoing cleanup project, or call (215) 654-5190.

### Contact EPA

► Trish Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator

Email: [taylor.trish@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.trish@epa.gov)

Phone: (215) 814-5539

► Kristine Matzko, Remedial Project Manager

Email: [matzko.kristine@epa.gov](mailto:matzko.kristine@epa.gov)

Phone: (215) 814-5719



### Go On-line to BoRit Websites:

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

ADDRESS LABEL HERE

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Philadelphia, PA 19103



July 2011

EPA Update for the BoRit Superfund Site