



# BoRit SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE

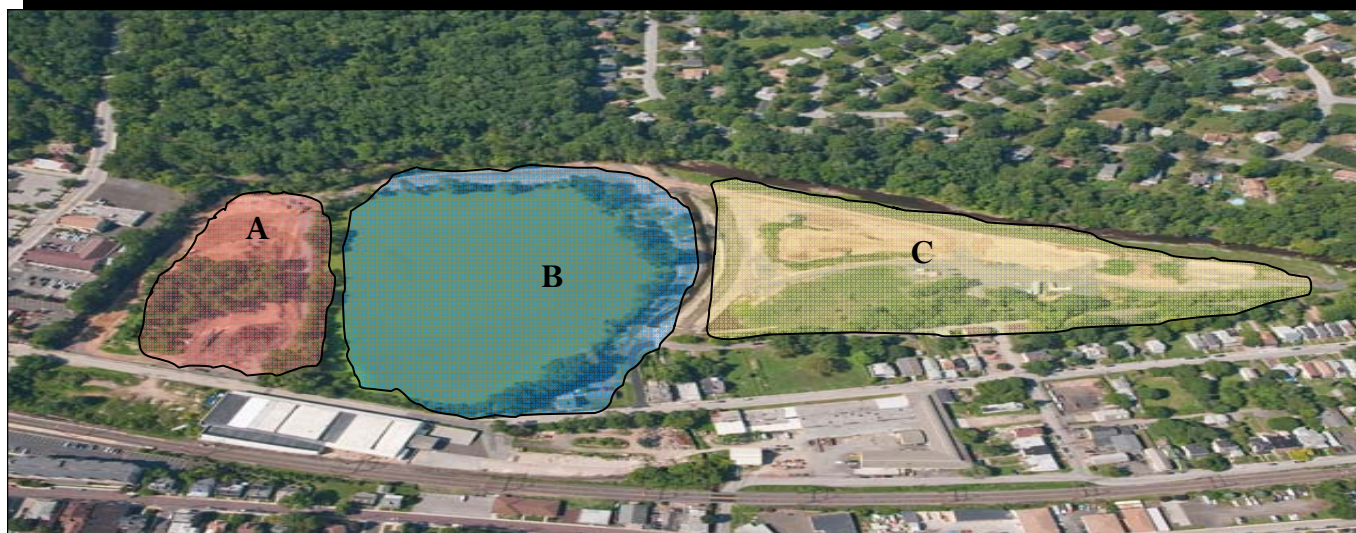
AMBLER, WHITPAIN, UPPER DUBLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 2010

*EPA is cleaning up the BoRit Site using sound science and with the health and safety of the community as a priority. We are committed to providing the community with accurate information and opportunities to be involved throughout the cleanup process.*

*Regular updates will be sent to the community about our activities. For more information, please visit our website often at: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm>*

## THE SITE TODAY



BoRit Site Aerial View August 2010 (Photo courtesy of Mr. Salvatore A. Boccuti)

- The BoRit Asbestos Site, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was used to dispose asbestos-containing materials (ACM) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products manufacturing plant no longer in operation. The site is divided into three distinct sections of land:
  - Figure A:** A privately owned asbestos pile. The property comprises six acres, of which two acres are the actual asbestos pile.
  - Figure B:** A 15-acre reservoir, whose berm is believed to be constructed of asbestos shingles, millboard, and soil. The reservoir is owned by the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve.
  - Figure C:** An 11-acre portion of Whitpain Park owned by Whitpain Township which has been closed since the 1980s, due to asbestos contamination.
- EPA has been working since July 2008 to stabilize stream banks so that ACM does not enter the streams. To date, we have completed stabilization work at the Wissahickon and Rose Valley creeks, and are working on the Tannery Run creek and additional portions of the Wissahickon (*see photos on Page #3*). All of this work is being done through EPA's Superfund **Removal Program** (*see Page #4 for more information*).

## EPA BEGINS LONG TERM INVESTIGATION

In November 2009, EPA began a long-term investigation called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) which is being managed by our **Remedial Program** (*see Page #4 for more information*). The purpose of the RI/FS is to define the source, extent and types of contaminants at the BoRit site. Once we have that information, EPA will evaluate the best options for implementing a permanent cleanup. The RI/FS process is expected to take several years to complete.

The first phase of the RI/FS began in November 2009 and was completed in January 2010. During this first phase EPA:

- Sampled surface water, sediment, soil and waste at Whitpain Park, the BoRit pile and the reservoir,
- Sampled soil in the floodplain,
- Sampled sediments and surface water in nearby creeks, and
- Sampled the air on the site.

In the second phase of the RI/FS, scheduled to begin this fall, EPA plans to:

- Take more water, soil and sediment samples on and off the site,
- Install groundwater monitoring wells,
- Sample air in the community using stationary monitors,
- Take “activity based samples” on the site, along the Green Ribbon Trail and in a few residential yards closest to the site,
- Take one sample from the playground.

*The results of our field investigations will be shared with the community in future updates.*





## PUBLIC SAFETY A PRIORITY DURING WORK

Between June 23, 2010 and July 2, 2010, EPA cleared approximately 1.26 acres of the pile property to construct access roads and staging areas for the upcoming stream bank restoration work at Tannery Run and Wissahickon creeks.

- All of our work was done in accordance with asbestos air regulations and with safety as a priority.
- EPA set up four sprinklers at the pile, and used water trucks and hoses to help keep the area saturated and to prevent asbestos fibers from becoming airborne.
- During intrusive activities, we take air samples on and off the site and, to date, we have not detected levels of asbestos that would present a health risk to the general public.
- We follow a comprehensive Health and Safety Plan for workers.
- EPA contractors wear personal monitoring devices that allow us to measure for asbestos exposure.
- The site conditions are greatly improved and provide greater protection to the public, primarily due to the work EPA has done to stabilize the stream banks and remove ACM.



Dust Suppression During Clearing Activities



Restoration of Rose Valley Creek

## THE STATS TO DATE

- Approximately 1,700 tons have been sent to the landfill for disposal. The ACM was removed from the stabilized stream banks and from the pile property.
- Approximately 67,500 square feet of Geocells and more than 27,000 square feet of cable concrete have been installed to stabilize the stream banks and control erosion.
- 2,878 truck-loads of clean fill dirt have been delivered to the site.

## THE COSTS TO DATE

EPA has authorized \$9,612,380 of which approximately \$7 million has been spent to:

- Construct access roads
- Stabilize the Wissahickon creek bank adjacent to the former park
- Stabilize both banks of Rose Valley Creek
- Cover exposed waste along the reservoir berm

The remainder of the funds will be used to stabilize the banks of Tannery Run and the Wissahickon creek bank adjacent to the asbestos pile property and to remove ACM from along the Wissahickon creek.

## SUPERFUND 101



### What Is Superfund?

Superfund is the name given to the environmental program established to address abandoned hazardous waste sites. It is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended. This law was enacted in the wake of the discovery of toxic waste dumps such as Love Canal and Times Beach in the 1970s. It allows the EPA to clean up such sites and to compel responsible parties to perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-lead cleanups.

- Using our Superfund authority, we have the ability to respond to short-term or emergency situations to stabilize immediate threats to human health and the environment. These activities are managed by our **Removal Program**.
- We also have the ability to conduct long-term investigations at sites on our National Priorities List (NPL), EPA's list of most hazardous waste sites. These activities are managed by our **Remedial Program**.

### Superfund At BoRit

- At BoRit, we are using both the **Removal** and **Remedial** programs.
- All of the work done to date to remove ACM and stabilize the stream banks has been managed by our **Removal Program**.
- On April 9, 2009 we added the BoRit Site to the NPL making it eligible for the long-term investigation and cleanup that will be managed by our **Remedial Program**.
- The first step in the long-term investigation is the RI/FS. The first phase of the RI/FS began in November 2009 and was completed in January 2010.
- EPA is now planning for the second phase of the RI/FS, which is expected to begin this fall.

*For more information about EPA's Superfund Program, visit our website at:*

*<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/about.htm>*

### WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is the name given to a number of naturally occurring fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, the ability to be woven, and resistance to heat and most chemicals. Because of these properties, asbestos fibers have been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, including roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper and cement products, textiles, coatings, and friction products such as automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts.

Exposure to airborne asbestos may result in a potential health risk because persons breathing the air may breathe in asbestos fibers. Continued exposure can increase the amount of fibers that remain in the lung. Fibers embedded in lung tissue over time may cause serious lung diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma.

In 2009, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Pennsylvania Department of Health prepared a Health Consultation for the BoRit site. To read the consultation, visit:

<http://www.epaosc.org/BoRit> (look under "documents"/"health")

### REDEVELOPMENT IN AMBLER

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

**Ambler Boilerhouse:** Montgomery County is receiving a Revolving Loan Fund grant from the EPA's Brownfields program to cleanup the boilerhouse in preparation for redevelopment.

#### Contact:

Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority  
Ms. Glen Sweet at (610) 275-5300

**Former Keasbey & Mattison Asbestos Manufacturing Building at Maple and Chestnut Streets:** The owner of the property is removing the asbestos from the building, and the building will be demolished with the intent to redevelop the property.

#### Contact:

PADEP Complaint Service Representative  
(484) 250-5991

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK AT AMBLER ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

EPA is overseeing stream bank maintenance work along the Wissahickon creek at the former Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site. The maintenance work is needed to help control erosion around a concrete structure called a revetment. The revetment is designed to reduce erosion by absorbing the impact of water flowing in the creek.

The Ambler Asbestos site was successfully cleaned up in August 1993 and deleted from the EPA's National Priorities List in 1996. As part of the ongoing maintenance program for the site, EPA evaluates the effectiveness of the cleanup and the need for routine maintenance and repair. EPA's most recent evaluation determined that the cleanup continues to be protective of public health and the environment and that the concrete revetment is in excellent condition.

The ongoing stream stabilization work will use a technology called riprap that reinforces stream banks with large angular stone (riprap). The riprap work has been planned since 2007.

More information on the Ambler Asbestos site is available on EPA's website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD000436436/index.htm>

For anyone interested in knowing more about the effectiveness of riprap, the following link provides a fact sheet on riprap for stream erosion:

[http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs\\_st/stfs16/tabid/4171/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs_st/stfs16/tabid/4171/Default.aspx)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED



### **Visit EPA's Field Office:**

EPA Field Office  
324 West Maple Avenue  
Ambler, PA  
(215) 654-5190

### **Contact EPA**

Vance Evans  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
evans.vance@epa.gov  
(215) 814-5526

### **Go To BoRit Websites:**

<http://www.epaossc.org/borrit>

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm>

[www.BoRitCAG.org](http://www.BoRitCAG.org) — Community Advisory Group's website

### **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 Alsh Avenue, Fort Washington, Pa. All meetings are open to the public. We invite all citizens to get involved and stay informed about the cleanup and the future of the site.

### **Apply For A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)**

A TAG provides money for activities that help your community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant of up to \$50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. For more information, contact:

**Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator**

**(215) 814-5522**

**Libertz.amelia@epa.gov**

### **In The Next Issue...**

- Update on Stream Bank Stabilization
- Update on the RI/FS Sampling Activities and Results
- What is Activity Based Sampling?
- Nuts & Bolts of the RI/FS Process
- Next Steps

*Tell us what you'd like to see in an upcoming issue of the Community Updates. Send all suggestions to Vance Evans, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at [evans.vance@epa.gov](mailto:evans.vance@epa.gov)*





(Photo courtesy of Mr.  
Salvatore A. Boccuti)

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