



BoRit Asbestos Site

Whitpain Township/Upper Dublin Township/Ambler Borough
Montgomery County, PA

Community Update November 2008

Preparatory Work

Preparatory work for the stream bank stabilization is almost complete. We have picked up the big pieces of asbestos-containing materials (e.g., cement pipes, tiles, etc.), and have completed grinding the stumps along the slopes of the Wissahickon and Rose Valley Creeks. Currently, loose materials (e.g., small branches) are being picked up from the banks. We have started to put clean fill along the bank of the Wissahickon to fill any voids (irregular areas) in order to have a "flat" surface to work on.

Most of the necessary materials have been ordered and we expect to start the actual construction of the bank stabilization in early December. Work will continue throughout the winter, as long as weather conditions allow for a safe work environment.

Stream Bank Stabilization

As stated in the previous update, this is the construction sequence we will follow once the preparatory work is complete:

1. Place geotextile fabric from the toe of the bank to one foot above the 100-year flood level.
2. Place geocells on the slope from the toe of the bank to the top of the bank.
3. Place rip rap stone, from the toe of the bank, to a thickness of two feet, to an elevation equal to the right bank.
4. Fill geocells with soil/seeds.
5. Place erosion mat on top of the geocells.
6. Hydroseed next spring, if needed.
7. Conduct maintenance as needed until vegetation is established.

Air Monitoring/Sampling

We have been conducting air monitoring and sampling since we started field activities this past July. As of October 31, we have analyzed a total of 183 samples. Nine samples came back positive for asbestos. *The nine samples are within EPA's acceptable limits and are below OSHA numbers for worker safety.*

This indicates that neither the workers nor the residents are being exposed to asbestos fibers from the Site at levels that pose an unacceptable or significant health risk.

Of those nine samples:

- Two were ambient samples (fixed locations)
 - One was off-site, on Maple Street, across the Kane-Core property
 - The second was on-site, location 16 at the park property
- The remaining seven samples were from personnel samples.
 - Personnel samples are taken from sampling pumps worn by contractors conducting tasks throughout the day.

Air sampling results are posted on the website under the "documents" section.

Asbestos in Yards

Some residents have expressed concern about the possibility of having asbestos in their yards that is not related to building materials used in the construction of their homes. The primary concern regarding asbestos exposure is with airborne asbestos fibers entering the body through inhalation, as opposed to dermal contact or ingestion. Therefore, as long as the area is *covered* and *undisturbed*, the exposure potential should be minimal, if any. Nonetheless, if you would like EPA to conduct a visual inspection, feel free to contact us by calling the field office at (215) 654-5190 or by visiting the field office at 324 W. Maple Street in Ambler.

Some of the information we will need is the following:

1. Where is the area of concern?
2. How big is the area of concern?
3. Is the area exposed or covered?
4. From where did the material originate?
5. How did the material get there?
6. How long has the material been there?

Site Website

Please remember that you can get the latest information (e.g., pictures, sampling results) by going to the site's website at: **www.epaosc.net/BoRit**

SITE CONTACTS

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