



BoRit Asbestos Area Site

Community Update

For the week of July 21, 2008
Ambler/Whitpain/Upper Dublin Townships

EPA Begins Preparation of BoRit Asbestos Site:

Earlier this month EPA contractors arrived onsite to prepare for cleanup activities at the BoRit Asbestos Area Site. Prior to enacting the planned containment and stabilization work, it was necessary to bring workers and machinery onsite to clear overgrown vegetation, repair fencing and begin building access roads. Air monitoring and sampling continue to be conducted during activities onsite and dust suppression is being done as needed.

Steps to ensure a safe & effective cleanup: As our engineers finalize the details of the design of the Stream Bank Stabilization of the eastern bank of the Wissahickon Creek and the banks of Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run; and coordination with state and local officials continues, the following activities are also in progress to ensure safe and effective site access for site personnel:

- Clearing trees and vines in selected areas of the site;
- Constructing access roads close to the stream banks to transport and stabilize site-related materials; this will ensure the quickest and safest operation possible, and
- Installing new fencing and truck gates along selected portions of West Maple Street and Chestnut Avenue in Ambler Borough and Whitpain Township, respectively.

Public health and safety is our priority: The following provides a snapshot of measures we are taking to protect the health and safety of both residents and site personnel. For a detailed overview of the site's Health and Safety Plan, go to www.epaosc.net/Borit:

Safety measure #1: We are operating real-time air particulate matter monitors, which are located upwind and downwind of where field activities occur each day. Data from these monitors is constantly transmitted to and reviewed by EPA's contractor at the BoRit Field Office at 324 West Maple Street.

Safety measure #2: We are regularly sampling the air for asbestos. We will post the results of these samples, taken on a weekly basis, on the site website within 48 hours of receiving them from our analysis lab.

Safety measure #3: We utilize a 2,000-gallon water truck to suppress dust on dry days. Spraying water over

an area to suppress dust is a standard procedure employed to ensure less particulate matter in the air.

Safety measure #4: We have established site hot zones in which cleanup personnel conducting tasks which may disturb contaminated soils are required to wear personal protective equipment. This equipment includes breathing masks with filters; full-body Tyvek coveralls; hard hats, work gloves, and steel-toed shoes.

Summary of recent sampling results: EPA, ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) and the Department of Health have reviewed results from our most recent samples results concluded that *offsite exposure does not pose a public health threat*. It is safe to walk near the site and/or patronize nearby businesses (e.g., McDonald's, SEPTA).

Results from the last two weeks of sampling show one sample was positive for asbestos. The concentration was less than 0.0003 fibers per cubic centimeter, which is comparable to the non activity-based sampling results obtained offsite and onsite previously. All other results, including the ones located along McDonald's back parking lot, were non-detect for asbestos. The sample positive for asbestos was collected from a location across from the BoRit property where field activities were taking place.



A certified EPA cleanup contractor sprays a portion of BoRit Asbestos Area site to suppress dust. This and many more safety measures are outlined in detail in the site's Health & Safety Plan, which you can view online.

Go to: www.epaosc.net/Borit for detailed site information.

SITE CONTACTS:

EPA On-Scene Coordinators

Eduardo Rovira
(215) 814-3436
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Jack Kelly
(215) 814-3112
kelly.jack@epa.gov

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

Larry Johnson
(215) 814-3239
johnson.larry-c@epa.gov

ATSDR

Lora Werner
(215) 814-3141
lkw9@cdc.gov

Montgomery County Department of Health

Harriet Morton
(610) 278-5117
hmorton@mail.montcopa.org