



# BoRit SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE



AMBLER BOROUGH, UPPER DUBLIN & WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS, PA

SEPTEMBER 2013

## "RESERVOIR" CLEANUP UNDERWAY



Aerial photograph courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti

The Environmental Protection Agency (Removal Program) started working on the Reservoir portion of the BoRit Asbestos Superfund site during the second week of September. The work will cover the exposed asbestos on the berms and floor of the Reservoir.

Other aspects of the BoRit cleanup removal work are either complete or ongoing – the Pile and adjacent stream banks of Rose Valley Creek, Tannery Run and the Wissahickon Creek are complete; the Park cover is still ongoing.

The Reservoir is an approximately 11-acre-pond, formerly used to receive process water in the asbestos-containing material production process. The berm of the reservoir is believed to be constructed of asbestos shingles, millboard and soil. Asbestos product waste, such as piping and tiles, was visible surrounding the Reservoir and stream banks.

Currently, the Reservoir is owned by the Wissahickon Valley Waterfowl Preserve. The water in the Reservoir is not being used for drinking or any other human activity. Waterfowl use the Reservoir as habitat.

Although the cleanup plans for the Reservoir have not been finalized, it is anticipated that the existing berm will be "extended" approximately 15 feet toward the water along the Pile and Rose Valley Creek sides, approximately 75 feet along Maple Avenue, and approximately 30 feet along the Wissahickon Creek.

In addition, the floor of the Reservoir will be covered and the contours of the floor will be changed. For all that work to take place, the following steps are being taken: 1) the existing trees around the Reservoir will be cut down; 2) the pond will be drained; 3) the pond water will be treated to remove metals and asbestos, according to state guidelines; and 4) the treated water will be discharged into the Wissahickon Creek.

During the draining of the pond, nearby residents may notice a nuisance odor coming from the decomposing, organic materials in the sediments of the pond. The odor should only be temporary, until work to cover the floor of the pond and refill it is underway.

Once the work is completed, trees and vegetation will be planted to attract different varieties of waterfowl. Water from one of the adjacent creeks will be pumped into the restored pond. Work is anticipated to last six to nine months.



## For More Information

### **Field Office Location:**

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### **Contacts:**

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#### **On-Scene Coordinator**

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#### **Remedial Project Manager**

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### **Websites:**

- [www.epaossc.org/borit](http://www.epaossc.org/borit) (EPA Removal Info.)
- [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm) (EPA Remedial Info.)
- [www.BoRitCAG.org](http://www.BoRitCAG.org) (Community Advisory)

### **Public Health Assessment Available for Review**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry prepared a public health assessment of the Bo-Rit Asbestos Superfund site. This document has been released for a 30-day public comment period ending September 30, 2013. Subsequent to the public comment period, the Department of Health will address all public comments and revise or append the document as appropriate. The public health assessment will then be reissued. To view the report, go to: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=PA>

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EPA Update for the Borit Asbestos Superfund Site September 2013

