March 2018

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site

Community Involvement Plan

Borough of Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

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Prepared for: U.S. EPA Region 3

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SUPERFUND OVERVIEW:

In order to participate in or follow the Superfund process as it unfolds in your community, it is important to know what Superfund is and how it works. The following information was taken from EPA's website. Underlined terms in this CIP provide links to more detailed information. Open links by clicking on them while holding down the 'Ctrl' button. If you are reading a paper copy of this CIP, EPA's Superfund website holds the same information, and more. It can be found by typing the following address into any internet browser: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/

Additional web resources are provided in Appendix G.

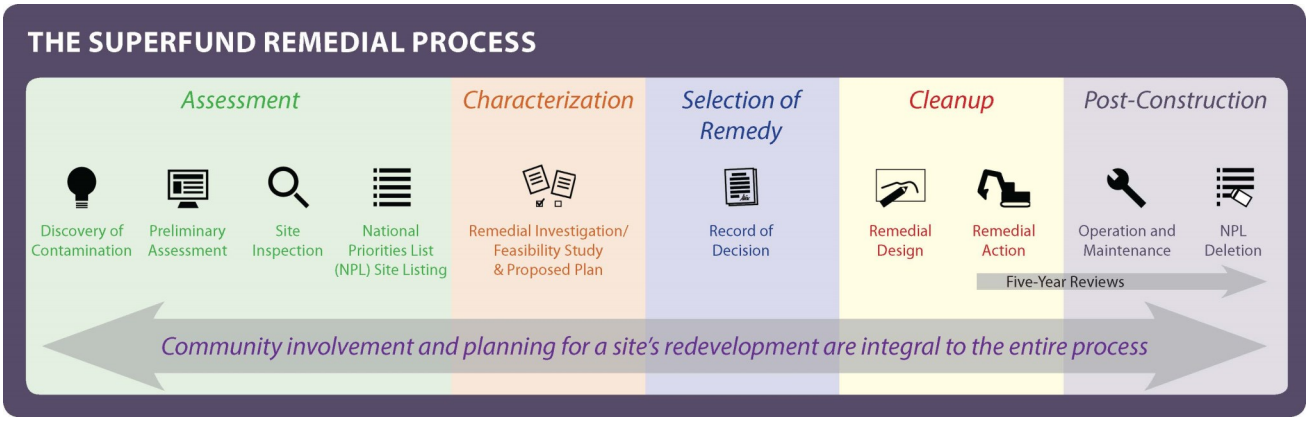
Basic Information

What is Superfund?

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund program, created in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places.

The Superfund cleanup process is complex and involves many steps. The Superfund Site Assessment program determines if sites pose urgent risks needing immediate, short-term actions that should be taken by EPA's Superfund Removal Program or if sites pose less critical risks and should be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Some sites require no further action or may be referred to state agencies, but sites placed on the NPL, like the BoRit Asbestos Site, undergo extensive investigation before appropriate cleanup plans can be determined and implemented. This long-term process is conducted by EPA's Superfund Remedial Program. However, even during Remedial Program activities, the Removal Program can take immediate actions at any time, if needed or beneficial. While investigating or addressing sites, EPA may also take actions to enlist or enforce the cooperation of those who may have contributed to site contamination or to recover costs from them. These parties are called Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). EPA also partners with the states and takes steps to keep affected community members involved. It is important that community members know that EPA will work to ensure that cleanup actions are conducted safely and provide long-term protection of human health and the environment.

Significant Components of the Superfund Remedial Process



PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/SITE INVESTIGATION (SITE DISCOVERY AND SITE EVALUATION)

This stage includes a review of historical information and includes visiting a site to evaluate the potential for a release of hazardous substances. EPA's Site Assessment program determines if the site poses a threat to people and the environment and whether hazards need to be addressed immediately or additional site information will be collected.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL) SITE LISTING

The NPL is primarily an information resource that identifies sites that warrant cleanup. It is a list of the worst hazardous waste sites identified by Superfund. The list is largely based on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

This stage involves an evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination at a site and assessing potential threats to human health and the environment. This stage of the process also includes evaluation of the potential performance and cost of the treatment options identified for a site.

RECORD OF DECISION

Leading up to the issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD), the EPA recommends a preferred remedy and presents the cleanup plan in a document called a Proposed Plan for public comment. Following the public comment period, the EPA issues a final remedy selection in a Record of Decision.

REMEDIAL DESIGN AND REMEDIAL ACTION

Detailed cleanup plans are developed and implemented during this stage. Remedial design includes development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup. Remedial action follows design, and involves the actual construction or implementation phase of site cleanup.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

After EPA determines that the physical construction at a site is complete, activities are put in place to ensure that the cleanup actions will protect human health and the environment over the long-term. For example, these activities may include routine maintenance at the site, such as making sure signs and fences are intact, ensuring treatment systems are running smoothly, and enforcing any long term site restrictions.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST DELETION

Once cleanup goals have been achieved and sites are fully protective of human health and the environment, EPA deletes them from the NPL.

REUSE

EPA's goal is to make sure site cleanup is consistent with the likely future use of a site. Consideration of reuse and redevelopment at a site can occur at any point in the Superfund cleanup process, from site investigation activities to deletion from the NPL. EPA works with communities to make sure sites or portions of sites are used safely and in a beneficial way for the community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SUPERFUND

Community Involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaborating with community members, in order to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups. CERCLA and SARA establish Community Involvement in Superfund and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan, or NCP) describes EPA's process.

The foundation of Superfund's Community Involvement program is the belief that the members of the community affected by a Superfund site have the right to be informed and involved in EPA's decision-making process. The primary objective is to not only enable, but to encourage, the members of an affected community to get involved and participate in the Superfund process. EPA's goal is to provide accurate, timely, accessible, and understandable site-specific information to the public. The Community Involvement program strives to maintain a consistent community presence, build relationships with the community and local stakeholders, as well as local, state, and other federal government agencies.

For more information, please see A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program. If you have questions about this document, the site, or the Superfund process, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) for the site. This information can be found in Appendix A.

The Site: Use and Regulatory History

Site History

The BoRit Asbestos Site was used, from the early 1900s to the late 1960s, to dispose of asbestos-containing material (ACM) that came from a nearby asbestos products manufacturing plant. The site is divided into three parcels: An asbestos waste pile, a reservoir, and a closed park. The asbestos waste pile, approximately 25-feet high, is on a six-acre piece of land owned by Kane-Core, Inc. The waste pile covers approximately two-and-a-half acres. The Reservoir is owned by the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve. The berm (walls) 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 the stream banks. A closed, 11-acre park parcel is owned by Whitpain Township. This former disposal area was filled with asbestos wastes and eventually used as a park and playground. In the mid-1980s, the park was closed and fenced due to asbestos contamination. The BoRit site was added to the EPA's National Priorities List of the most hazardous waste sites on April 9, 2009, making it eligible for cleanup using federal Superfund program funding. EPA retains the right to pursue responsible parties for reimbursement of funds at all Superfund sites. The site is on the National Priorities List for cleanup because the nearby residential population could potentially be exposed to

Aerial View from the 1930s of the former Keasbey and Mattison manufacturing facilities and waste disposal areas.

airborne asbestos and to asbestos contamination in and along Tannery Run, Rose Valley Creek and the Wissahickon Creek.

Regulatory History

- In November 2009, EPA began a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to study the nature and extent of contamination, health risks, and potential cleanup options.
- The first phase of Remedial Investigation started with field work, which included collecting surface water, sediment, soil, and waste samples. This field work started in the fall of 2009 and was completed in the winter of 2010. EPA sampled the pile, the reservoir, the park and the three creeks (Rose Valley Creek, Tannery Run, and Wissahickon Creek) that flow through the Site.
- Various contaminants, including asbestos, were detected at the Site. A second sampling program (Phase II) began in October, 2010 and concluded in the summer 2011. EPA collected ambient air data throughout the community over a one-year period. EPA installed and sampled six groundwater monitoring wells. Additional soil samples were collected from on-site and off-site locations. Activity-based sampling (ABS), the process of collecting air samples from the breathing zone of field technicians engaged in realistic activities (e.g., raking, mowing,) that may disturb asbestos-contaminated sources, was conducted in the summer of 2011. Air sampling data demonstrated that there is no unacceptable risk from airborne asbestos in the surrounding community.
- EPA worked to remove the potential risks from asbestos contamination at the BoRit Site, by covering all asbestos-containing materials throughout the site. The site consists of a six-acre parcel containing a 2.5-acre by 25-foot asbestos waste pile, a 15-acre parcel with an 11-acre pond (also known as the reservoir), and an 11-acre former park area. Three water bodies run either through or alongside the park.

Activity Based Sampling – Raking Scenario

Activity Based Sampling – Mowing Scenario.

- EPA completed stream bank stabilization on the following: The Wissahickon Creek, which runs along the perimeter of all parcels included in the site; the Tannery Run Creek, which runs alongside the pile parcel; and the Rose Valley Creek, which runs into Wissahickon Creek between the Reservoir and Park parcels. Storm damage to the Rose Valley Creek stream bank stabilization measures, which was caused by extreme weather events in 2011, was repaired and streambeds and the base of the cap were fortified.

Geotextile fabric is laid on berm before clean material is placed.

Contractors continue to dewater the reservoir.

- EPA has completed the cover on the Pile which includes a liner, clean fill, and vegetation. EPA is completing the cover for the Park, which is the same as the Pile design. Completion of the Park cover was delayed while EPA focused on covering the asbestos-containing materials along the inside banks and bottom of the Reservoir.

10-20-2015: View of the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve pond being refilled after it was reinforced and capped during EPA Removal Action.

- The Reservoir work began in January 2014. EPA pumped and treated the Reservoir water to meet state regulations for effluent (discharge water) and piped the water into the Wissahickon Creek.
- EPA has covered the berms of the Reservoir with a liner which is reinforced with clay in unstable areas of the berm. The entire reservoir is also covered with clean fill. When the Reservoir liner is completed, clean water was pumped back into the Reservoir, restoring and improving it.
- EPA's Removal Program has completed its work to remove any potential risk from asbestos contamination at the BoRit Site by capping all asbestos-containing materials throughout the 32-acre site. The Site consists of a 2-1/2-acre x 25-foot asbestos waste pile on a 6-acre parcel, an 11-acre pond (also known as the reservoir) within a 15-acre parcel, and an 11-acre former park parcel.
- EPA completed stream bank stabilization on the following: The Wissahickon Creek, which runs along the perimeter of all parcels included in the site; the Tannery Run Creek, which runs alongside the pile parcel; and the Rose Valley Creek, which runs into Wissahickon Creek between the reservoir and park parcels. Storm damage to the Rose Valley Creek stream bank stabilization measures, which was caused by extreme weather events in 2011, was repaired and streambeds and the base of the cap were fortified.
- EPA has issued a Record of Decision (https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2244733) in July 2017 for the BoRit Site.

Pond –Berm after removal

- The cleanup remedy incorporates the work that has already been completed at the Site by EPA's Removal Program. This work includes covering the asbestos -containing wastes, soils, and reservoir sediments with geotextile, and a minimum of two feet of clean material. The remedy will also require post-construction sampling, routine inspections, long term operations and maintenance, and land-use controls. The post-construction sampling will be performed in early 2018.
- The Final Remedial Design was approved in November 2017. The remedy requires post-construction sampling, routine inspections, long term operations and maintenance, and land-use controls. The post-construction sampling will be performed in early 2018. A long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) plan (https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2247189) is a living document that will be updated as necessary.

Future Reuse

- Whitpain Township maintains ownership of the Park parcel and oversees the administration of the public park. Future use plans for the Park parcel include a public park and open space.
- The Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP) currently maintains ownership of the Reservoir parcel and continues to use the property as a waterfowl preserve. The WWP installed amenities along West Maple Street to promote bird watching and improve the aesthetic value of the area.
- Future use of the Asbestos Pile parcel is unknown at this time. The Asbestos Pile Parcel has a soil cover and future use activities will be coordinated with EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

THE COMMUNITY

Community Involvement Plan

The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is EPA's site specific strategy for informing and engaging community members in the Superfund process. This CIP is intended to provide general Superfund program information, describe the site and the community, identify the needs and concerns of the community, as well as help to identify the many participation opportunities and options available throughout the cleanup process. Last but not least, this CIP is also intended to be a resource for EPA staff, our partners at the state and local level, and the community. The Superfund process may span several years, and site team members may change. The CIP will inform new team members about the community, identify community concerns, and list community resources for planning meetings and communicating with residents and officials. The CIP is a "living" document that will evolve and be modified as the investigation, design, and cleanup processes continue and as input is received from the community.

Community Profile

Borough of Ambler Demographics

As of the census of 2010, there were 6,426 people, 2,510 households, and 1,598 families residing in the borough. The population density was 7,605.8 people per square mile. There were 2,605 housing units at an average density of 3,083.3 per square mile.

There were 2,510 households, out of which 29.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 45.7% were married couples living together, 13.9% had a female householder with no husband present, and 36.3% were non-families. 30.2% of all households were made up of individuals, and 11.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.45 and the average family size was 3.08.

In the borough the population was spread out with:

23.5% under the age of 18; 7.0% from 18 to 24; 32.5% from 25 to 44;19.7% from 45 to 64 and 17.4% who were 65 years of age or older

The median age was 37 years. For every 100 females there were 86.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 81.8 males.

The median income for a household in the borough was $47,014, and the median

income for a family was $51,235. Males had a median income of $40,305 versus $30,735 for females. The per capita income for the borough was $21,688. About 2.4% of families and 5.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 6.8% of those under age 18 and 4.9% of those age 65 or over.

Montgomery County, PA Demographics

As of the census of 2010, 750,097 people, 286,098 households, and 197,693 families resided in the county. The population density was 1,553 people per square mile. The 297,434 housing units averaged 616 units/sq mi.

The racial makeup of the county was: 79.0% - White;
8.7% - Black or African American; 4.3% - Hispanic or Latino or any race;
0.1% - Native American; 6.4% - Asian; 1.6% - from other races AND 1.9% - from two or more races.

Of the 286,098 households, 32.00% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 57.20% were married couples living together, 8.80% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.90% were not families. About 25.60% of all households were made up of individuals, and 9.90% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.54 and the average family size was 3.09.

In the county, the population was spread out with:

24.10% under the age of 18; 7.10% from 18 to 24; 30.50% from 25 to 44;
23.40% from 45 to 64; and 14.9% who were 65 years of age or older.

The median age was 38 years. For every 100 females, there were 93.60 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 90.00 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $60,829, and for a family was $72,183 (these figures had risen to $73,701 and $89,219, respectively, as of a 2007 estimate). Males had a median income of $48,698 versus $35,089 for females. The per capita income for the county was $30,898. About 2.80% of families and 4.40% of the population were below the poverty line, including 4.60% of those under age 18 and 5.10% of those age 65 or over.

Community Concerns

Some common concerns that have been addressed to at the BoRit Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings, include:

Concerns about the Cleanup

- The community was concern if capping was the right cleanup remedy. Would it hold up and prevent future exposure of Asbestos into the air and/or water?
- Could Asbestos possible get into the air and/or water during the cleanup process, from the trucks involved or the digging that was done? What was being done to avoid this happening?
- Will there be any possible flooding and groundwater run off caused by the cleanup process?

Concerns about the Future of the site

- What will be done to monitor the air and water in the future for Asbestos contamination? Who will be in charge of this? How often will this happen?
- Will the site be monitored to make sure the remedy is staying in place? How will it be monitored? How often and by who?
- Who will maintain the site? Including things like the remedy and access to the site?
- How and what will the site be allowed to be reused for in the future?

Throughout the Superfund Process, EPA has captured the concerns and questions of residents and local officials and recorded its answers. These full list of Ambler Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document can be found at:

https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2230342

Select Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from Ambler Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Document

Why did EPA choose an on-site containment remedy for the Ambler Asbestos site? (7-3-2010)

The selection of the remedy was based on commonly accepted, existing soil principles, combined with the regulations specific to asbestos that were and are still applicable. The capping systems implemented at the Ambler Asbestos Piles Site utilized soil and vegetative cover for the steep side slopes with engineered multilayer caps for the flat plateaus of the Locust Street and Plant Piles. The CertainTeed Pile was capped with soil and vegetation only. All parts of the containment remedy for the Ambler Asbestos Piles Site comply with the requirements of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs), which are the regulations that EPA uses regarding abandoned asbestos factories and disposal sites. The NESHAP regulations for asbestos are contained in 40 CFR 61.140 through 61.157. Further information on EPA's regulations concerning asbestos is available on the EPA website at: http://www.epa.gov/asbestos

The basic principles supporting soil as an appropriate cover for asbestos containing waste are summarized here. Asbestos is a generic term used to describe a group of fibrous silicate minerals that occur naturally in the environment and have been mined for commercial use. The asbestos minerals have 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 heat resistant, durable manufactured goods.

The physical properties of asbestos are also the reason that asbestos is not expected to move through soil. It is a mineral (i.e., rock) and dense, having a specific gravity typically reported as ranging between 2.0 and 3.5 (two to three and a half times heavier than water), depending on the mineral variety. Asbestos is made up of fibers, and although the fibers and fiber fragments can be microscopic, these particles are still large, complex molecules in the microscopic environment. The fibers are not soluble and, therefore, cannot be transported in a water solution like other, smaller contaminant molecules and ionic species. The particles are also too large to be transported preferentially by other physical-chemical processes like diffusion. Therefore, asbestos fibers tend to remain stationary within the soil matrix. In other words, in a natural soil setting, asbestos fibers do not move through the soil.

An analysis published by EPA in April 1977, *Movement of Selected Metals, Asbestos, and Cyanide in Soil: Applications to Waste Disposal Problems,* EPA Publication Number EPA-600/2-77-020, describes the potential for asbestos movement through

soil. Although the author, Dr. Wallace H. Fuller, recognizes the paucity of data specific to asbestos, he argues that asbestos is reasonably expected to behave like similarly sized clay particles, which have been extensively studied.

"Although there are no data on mobility of asbestos in soil, predictions about its behavior can be made with reasonable confidence. Since the weathering products of asbestos are the common nonhazardous salts of Ca, Mg, and Si, physical transport is the only mode of movement in soil which is of significance. The extensive data on movement of clay sized (<2μ diameter) particles by strictly physical processes provide a convenient yardstick for gaging the probable behavior of asbestos in soil. Clay particles 0.1 to 2.0μ in diameter are estimated to move at a rate of 1 to 10 cm per 3,000 to 40,000 years, depending on the soil texture (Berkland, 1974). There is no reason to expect that asbestos particles of similar size would move differently from this. Consequently, asbestos migration through soil will not be a problem of any significance."

It can be added that larger particles (i.e. the longer fibers of the asbestiform minerals) are expected to be even more resistant to movement due to physical impedance.

Is EPA concerned about the decon wash for trucks getting washed away in a heavy rainfall and spreading asbestos? (8-10-2009)

There is an insignificant possibility of asbestos moving off site due to the decon wash on-site. It is important to emphasize that asbestos, being a fiber, does not readily move in soil, stone, water, etc. The likelihood of asbestos moving off site from the decon pad in amounts that would exceed the maximum contaminant level is minimal.

What are EPA's protective guidelines for levels of asbestos in air at the BoRit site?

Using standard ***residential long-term*** exposure assumptions, risk-based action levels for asbestos in air can be calculated. Under conditions of long-term exposure (350 days/year for 30 years, starting at birth), a protective concentration of asbestos in ambient air is 0.001 fibers/cc. Continuous, exposure to this level of asbestos, as described above, would pose an excess cancer risk of 1 in 10,000. This concentration (0.001 fibers/cc) is the ambient air remediation goal for long-term exposure at the site.
For ***short-term*** exposures, such as those incurred by disturbing asbestos-contaminated soil on the BoRit site, risk-based concentrations are determined according to the activity being performed. At BoRit, vigorously raking soil was found to represent a worst-case scenario; that is, although the duration of exposure was short, vigorous raking resulted in the highest airborne concentrations of asbestos and the greatest potential for risk. These fibers do not remain airborne for very

long, quickly settling back to the ground soon after the activity ends, which differentiates this type of exposure from long-term ambient exposures. Based on a raking scenario, an activity-based remediation goal of 0.04 fibers/cc has been established for short-term exposure (50 days/year for 24 years, starting at age 6) to airborne asbestos at the site.

These site-specific protective values for asbestos in air were developed by EPA Region 3 toxicologists for the BoRit Site in accordance with the guidelines in OSWER Directive #9200.0-68, Framework for Investigating Asbestos-Contaminated Superfund Sites.

What is being done to address the flooding issues? (3-10-16)

EPA understands that flooding issues are a concern for many residents, impacting their quality of life. Although it is not within EPA's Superfund authority to directly address flooding issues, we have made improvements to Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run, in an effort to protect our response action as part of our work at BoRit. These improvements will facilitate better flow of the tributaries, reducing the impact of flooding events. In addition, EPA is coordinating with the West Ambler Revitalization Committee, led by Whitpain Township, to provide advice on flooding issues and revitalizing the West Ambler neighborhood.

Additionally, Temple University's Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC) received grant money from the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a stormwater management plan for three urban watersheds in Ambler Borough and Whitpain and Upper Dublin Townships — Rose Valley, Honey Run/Stuart Farm and Tannery Run. As part of the outreach process, CSC's Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, Director of the Center for Sustainable Communities and co-Principal Investigator for the flooding mitigation project, presented the flood plan at a public meeting held in West Ambler at the Daniel W. Dowling American Legion Post on April 7, 2015.
EPA understands that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published a public notice in the February 24, 2016 edition of the Times Herald that proposes the inclusion of homes above the Rose Valley sluiceway, on Maple Street, into the new floodplain mapping proposal. This development is due to the collaborative efforts of the West Ambler Revitalization Committee, Temple University and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Who is responsible for monitoring the BoRit property for compliance? (8-8-2007)
Responsibility for enforcement of the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulation has been delegated to the State. Neither EPA nor the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) can be present at all of our sites all of the time. The PADEP Air Quality inspector for that area does make it a point to monitor site and fence conditions on a regular basis.

If you should see a condition that causes concern, such as a downed portion of the fence, please contact EPA and PADEP as soon as you can. We will respond appropriately once we become aware of a problem.

What is the disclosure responsibility for the EPA if waste is kept in place (signs, fences, etc.)? (5-18-2009)

The site will be cleaned up to ensure it is protective of human health and the environment. If asbestos waste is kept in place, the remedy must comply with applicable or relevant and Federal and state environmental legal requirements. Under this possible remedial action, the remedy would have to comply with National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) Part 61 Subpart M for asbestos, which would require actions to prevent the emission of asbestos fibers from disposal sites. These actions may include installation of cover materials, warning signs, security fencing, or other approved actions. It is important to note that the site will be cleaned to ensure it is protective to the appropriate clean up goals. For instance, if an area is to be used as a residential property, EPA would clean the site to ensure the contamination is not hazardous to residents based on risk calculations. The same would go for recreational or commercial uses.

Is the cover at the BoRit site stable for the tot lot, basketball courts and future residential construction? (3-10-16)

EPA is constructing a soil cap that is designed to immobilize asbestos-containing materials, prevent erosion along the stream banks and resist flooding events. As long as redevelopment does not damage the protective remedy, beneficial reuse or redevelopment such as a park and basketball court are promising opportunities for reuse. In fact, structures such as a paved ball court, would enhance the existing cap and the routine maintenance required for a recreation center would complement any future operation and maintenance plan.

Please note that EPA is unaware of any plans to construct residential buildings on the BoRit site. The Human Health Risk Assessment that was conducted as part of the BoRit Remedial Investigation did not include a residential use scenario. Institutional controls placed on the site will acknowledge that residential use was not contemplated and may not proceed unless that use is subject to a human health risk assessment, and is allowable under those scenarios.

RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY

EPA offers many opportunities and resources to facilitate the community's involvement in EPA's activities and decisions. Which tools are used and how many activities occur usually reflects the level of interest expressed by the community. For a comprehensive description of available resources and opportunities, go to: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement
Some of the most frequently used opportunities and resources include:

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

A CAG is a self-forming, self-governing, stakeholder group that meets regularly to learn about EPA's cleanup process, discuss their issues and concerns, and provide feedback to EPA. EPA is able to provide support to the CAG by attending meetings, making presentations, procuring meeting rooms, advertising the meetings and providing copies of site-related documents. The BoRit CAG (http://www.boritcag.org/) has been formed for this site. It meets quarterly (February, May, August, and December) on the first Wednesday of the month at the Upper Dublin Township Municipal Building. For more information about meetings contact CIC, Gina Soscia, soscia.gina@epa.gov or 215-814-5538.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

A TAG is a competitive federal grant awarded to an incorporated nonprofit organization of community members affected by the Site. Recipients contract with independent technical advisors who review and evaluate site-related documents. For more information, please visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program.

Technical Assistance for Communities (TASC)

TASC is a program that provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. Such assistance helps communities to better understand the hazardous waste issues confronting them and to be well-informed while participating in the decision-making process. For more details, visit the TASC website: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc or contact TASC Coordinator Gina Soscia at 215-814-5538 for more information.

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Contacts

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Appendix A - Contacts

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Suite 200
Conshohocken, PA 19428
(610) 832-1679
http://www.pahouse.com/MDaley/

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
South-Central Regional Office
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: 484-250-5900
http://www.dep.pa.gov

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Appendix A - Contacts

Local

Borough of Ambler

131 Rosemary Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002
Phone: 215-646-1000
http://boroughofambler.com

Jeanne Sorg—Mayor
Mary Aversa—Borough Manager

Borough Council
Salvatore Pasceri—President
Ed Curtis Sr.—Vice President
Nancy Deininger
Sharon McCormick
Francine Tomlinson
Sara Hertz
Jonathan Sheward
Claudio Zaccone
Frank DeRuosi

Whitpain Township

960 Wentz Road
Blue Bell, PA 19422
Phone: 610-277-2400
https://www.whitpaintownship.org/

Board of Supervisors
Adam Zucker, Chair
Fred Conner, Vice-Chair
Anthony F. Greco, Secreatary
Ken Wollman, Treasurer
Michele Minnick, Assistant Secretary

Montgomery County

PO Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404
Phone: 610-278-3000
http://www.montcopa.org/

County Commissioners
Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, Chair
Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr, Vice-Chair
Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Appendix A - Contacts

Other

BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG)

Upper Dublin Township Building
801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Ft. Washington, PA 19034
http://boritcag.org

Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002
Phone: 215-628-0124
amblereac@gmail.com
http://www.amblereac.org
EAC Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at Borough Hall.

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Appendix B - Media Contacts

Newspapers

The Ambler Gazette
307 Derstine Ave.
Lansdale, PA 19446
Phone: 215-542-0200
http://www.montgomerynews.com/amblergazette/

Television Stations

CBS Philly (Channel 3)
1555 Hamilton Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: (800) 223-8477
Fax: (215) 977-5658
http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/

6 ABC
4100 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Phone: (215) 878-9700
Fax: (215) 581-4530 fax
http://6abc.com

NBC 10
10 Monument Rd.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Phone:(610) 668-5510
https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/

Fox 29
330 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 925-2929
Fax: (215) 982-5494
http://www.fox29.com/

Radio Stations

KYW Newsradio 1060
1555 Hamilton Street — 6th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19130
Phone: (215) 238-1060
http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/station/kyw-newsradio/

Appendix C - Potential Meeting Locations

Ambler Borough Hall Gymnasium
131 Rosemary Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

Daniel Dowling Legion Post #769
352 W. Maple Street
Ambler, PA 19002

First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
4 South Ridge Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Appendix D - Information Repositories

Local Repository

Wissahickon Valley Public Library-Ambler Branch
209 Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002

EPA Office

U.S. EPA Region 3
Administrative Records Room
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-814-3157, by appointment

Online

The Administrative Record can be found here:
https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collections/03/AR/PAD981034887

Other documents and information can be found on the BoRit Site Profile page here:
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/boritasbestos

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Appendix E - Fact Sheets

Last Updated: January 1, 2018

Bo-Rit Asbestos Site

Ambler/Whitpain/Upper Dublin
Montgomery County, PA

November 2007

Community Update

EPA Completes Air Sampling

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, completed its final round of air sampling at the Bo-Rit Asbestos Site.

Important results of these August/September samples are summarized below. All the sample results are available to the public on EPA's website at www.EPAOSC.net/BoRit

- The results of EPA's samples verified that no airborne asbestos was detected off-site.
- Three on-site sample results did show measureable levels of asbestos in the air. However, the EPA would only be concerned about these levels if people were exposed to them on a daily basis, 24-hours per day, and for a period of 30 years or longer. Again, these levels were detected **only** within the fenced perimeter of the site.

Summary of the Air Samples Where Asbestos was Detected

Three out of seventy-eight samples taken on the site had measurable, airborne asbestos:

1. A concentration of 0.00049 fibers per cubic centimeter of air was found in a sampler located at the pile.
2. A concentration of 0.00048 fibers per cubic meter of air was found in a sampler located at the pile.
3. A concentration of 0.00098 fibers per cubic meters of air was found at the former park, which is no longer open to the public.

EPA Proposes Plan of Action to Stabilize Site

EPA, in cooperation with PADEP, is proposing several steps to help ensure that site conditions do not worsen, including:

- Encapsulating the areas on the site where asbestos is exposed.
- Potentially removing and disposing of large pieces of asbestos-containing materials, like cement pipes.
- Stabilizing all the stream banks adjacent to the site to minimize and prevent further erosion of the banks. The banks will be stabilized in a way that will blend with the native vegetation and will provide long term protection.

All proposed work will be conducted by the EPA and we will take every precaution to ensure that human health and the environment is protected during these activities.

Next Steps

EPA will present our proposed plan of action at the next Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting and ask for their comments to the plan. In January, EPA plans to hold a public meeting for the community to explain all of our sampling results and our final plan of action.

EPA also invites you to provide your comments on the action plan presented in this fact sheet. Please send comments to your Community Involvement Coordinator, Larry Johnson.

Site Contacts

EPA On-Scene Coordinators
Eduardo Rovira
(215) 814-3436
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

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

DEP Project Manager
Timothy Cherry
(484) 250-5728
tcherry@state.pa.us

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
Larry Johnson
(215) 814-3239
johnson.larry-c@epa.gov

DEP Community Relations
Lynda Rebarchak
(484) 250-5820
lrebarchak@state.pa.us

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

Montgomery County Department of Health
Harriet Morton
(610) 278-5117
hmorton@mail.montcopa.org

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Larry C. Johnson
Community Involvement Coordinator
16 50 Arch St
Mailcode:3HS52
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Larry C. Johnson
Community Involvement Coordinator
BoRit Field Office
234 W. Maple St.
Ambler, PA 19002

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BoRit Asbestos Site Update

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP, UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP, AMBLER BOROUGH,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

JANUARY 2009

Community Involvement Plan

As the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 (EPA) continues to work on the BoRit Asbestos Site, a **Community Involvement Plan (CIP)** will be created for the site. A CIP is a document that EPA uses to ensure we continue effective two-way communication between residents and EPA. Some things that commonly make up a CIP include:

- A history of the site.
- Prior community involvement efforts.
- EPA's assessment of the community's concerns.
- EPA's plan to keep the community informed.

An important part of making a CIP is having one-on-one interviews with members of the community. These interviews help us determine the best way to keep the community involved and help address any issues concerning the site.

Site Description

The BoRit Asbestos Site is made up of 3 distinct sections of land. These sections include:

- An asbestos waste pile located on a 6-acre section of the site that is owned by Kane-Core, Inc.
- A 15-acre reservoir that is owned by the Wissahickon Watershed Association. The berm of the reservoir is made of **asbestos containing materials (ACM)**.
- An 11-acre park that is owned by Whitpain Township. The park has been closed since the 1980s due to asbestos contamination.

The site was used to dispose of ACM which came from the nearby Keasby and Mattison asbestos manufacturing plant. The plant operated from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Get Involved!

Your involvement in the CIP will ensure that your concerns are heard and that EPA is able to keep you informed. Anyone living in the vicinity of the site is welcome to speak with an EPA **Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)** to discuss any concerns and to ask questions about the site. All responses and personal information is kept confidential; your personal information will not appear in the document. Here are some steps on how to get involved:

- Fill out the attached form and mail it back to the CIC
- Send an email to the CIC at cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov requesting an interview
- Call the CIC at 215-814-5528 to set up an interview.

Interview times will be set up at your convenience.

Remedial Program Update

The site was proposed to the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in September 2008. The NPL is a list of the nation's most serious uncontrolled and abandoned hazardous waste sites. If the site's listing is finalized, it would make the site eligible for federal money towards a long-term cleanup.

Visit EPA's website for more information on the BoRit Asbestos Site at:
www.epaosc.net/BoRit

REMOVAL PROGRAM UPDATE

The Removal Program has been working at the site since July 2008. Most of the work has been preliminary activities for stream bank stabilization along the Wissahickon Creek.

Stabilization activities began the week of December 21, 2008, where geotextile fabric was placed from the toe of the bank to one foot above the 100-year flood level. In January 2009, EPA began placing geocells on the slope, starting from the toe to the top of the stream bank. The following picture was taken following geocell placement along the stream bank:

The next steps in stabilizing the stream bank will include rip rap stone placement along the bank, filling the geocells with soil and seeds, and the placement of erosion mats, and hydroseeding in the spring.

ASBESTOS IN YARDS

EPA is still offering to conduct visual inspections of local yards if residents are unsure if they have asbestos in their yards that is not related to the building materials of their homes. *It is important to remember that the risk of asbestos exposure is minimal if asbestos is covered and undisturbed.*

If you would like EPA to conduct a visual inspection:

- **Call the BoRit Field Office at 215-654-5190**
- **Visit the BoRit Field Office located at 324 West Maple Avenue in Ambler**

SITE CONTACTS

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
Francisco J. Cruz
215-814-5528
cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov

EPA On-Scene Coordinators
-Removal Program-
Eduardo Rovira
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Jack Kelly
kelly.jack@epa.gov

EPA Remedial Project Managers
-Remedial Program-
Stacie Peterson
peterson.stacie@epa.gov

Joe McDowell
mcdowell.joseph@epa.gov

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Lora Werner
215-814-3141
lkw9@cdc.gov

BoRit Field Office
215-654-5190

$$$$$$

EPA Technical Assistance Grants

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to $50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund Site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, please contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator, at 1-800-352-1973 extension 4-5522.

This picture shows the stream bank of the Wissahickon Creek before the geotextile mats and the geocells were placed. Appropriate erosion controls were placed while the prep work was being conducted.

The picture above shows the stream bank of the Wissahickon Creek as the geotextile fabric and the geocells were being placed.

If you would like to be a part of the Community Involvement Plan for this site, please complete the form below and mail it to the address listed below. Someone will call you to set up a one-on-one appointment at your home or place of business, at your convenience. Each interview will take approximately 20 minutes to 1 hour, based on your responses.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____ **Work Phone:**_____

Email Address:_____

Return to:

Francisco J. Cruz at cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov

Community Involvement Coordinator - EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Francisco J. Cruz
Mailcode 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EPA Update for the BoRit Asbestos Site

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UPDATE FOR BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

AMBLER, UPPER DUBLIN, WHITPAIN TWP, PENNSYLVANIA DECEMBER 2009

SHORT-TERM CLEANUP CONTINUES

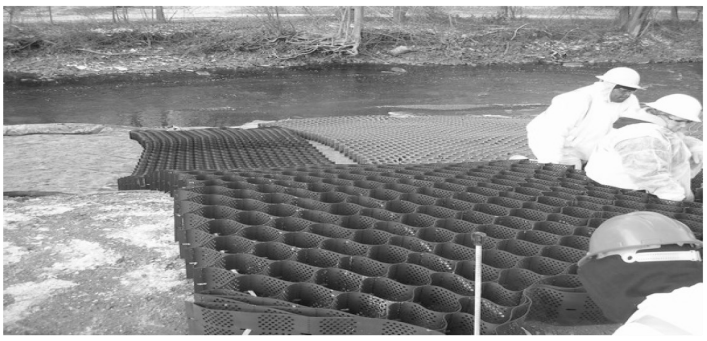
The **United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 (EPA)** continues to address the short-term, *potential* risk at the site.

We are stabilizing the stream banks because past erosion has caused **asbestos-containing materials (ACM)** to be exposed along the stream banks of the Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek, and Tannery Run. The ACM could pose a short-term, potential risk to the community if left in an unstable environment.

EPA completed stabilizing the Wissahickon Creek stream bank next to the former park in spring 2009. The stabilization has been tested several times by the storms the area has seen during the summer, and has held up very well. Stabilizing work included:

- Removing and properly disposing of large pieces of ACM (pipes, shingles, etc.) found on the stream bank.
- Placing clean fill to level the stream bank and create a relatively even surface.
- Placing Geocells on the stream bank and filling them with soil.
- Placing topsoil on the stream bank.
- Seeding the stream bank.

EPA is doing similar work on the stream banks of Rose Valley Creek, which runs between Whitpain Park and the reservoir. In order to provide a stable stream bank with minimal excavation, EPA will place **cable-concrete mats (CCM)** on the streambed and stream banks in place of the Geocells. These mats will help keep the water from eroding the soil and exposing ACM. In addition to the CCM, a 100 foot retaining wall was built near the Rose Valley headwall. The retaining wall will provide further support to the reservoir berm, as Rose Valley is being widened during the stabilization process.



The photo above shows the geocells being used. Geocells are honeycomb-like structures made of plastic which can be filled with soil, stone, or concrete.

The photo above shows the retention wall being constructed (along the left) and the CCM placed on the stream bed.

SAMPLING FOR LONG-TERM CLEANUP

As part of EPA's **Remedial Investigation (RI)** for the long term cleanup, we began taking samples at the site in November 2009. [Continues on pg. 2]

SAMPLING…CONTINUED

Samples will be taken for a variety of contaminants, including asbestos. Samples will be taken from water, waste, soil, and sediment. The results of our sampling efforts will help us choose the best final cleanup option for the site.

Once EPA has all the data we need, we will develop a **Feasibility Study (FS)** to determine the range of different cleanup options we can use. Before a final option is selected, EPA will seek public comments on our options, including the option that we think is the most appropriate for the final cleanup of the site.

In total, the **RI/FS** process may take **three to five years** to complete because of the amount of sampling and analysis that we need to do. The sampling will not affect the work already being done at the site. Likewise, the work being done at the site will not hinder the sampling process. EPA will send updated fact sheets to the community reporting on our progress.

ENJOY HIKING THE WISSAHICKON?

There are many beautiful trails along the Wissahickon Creek that boast beautiful wildlife and serene landscapes. Some of the most enjoyable parts of the Wissahickon Creek run alongside the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, as well as the Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site. **You may still use these areas for recreation.**

Unfortunately, prior manufacturing activities have left ACM both in the creek and on the stream banks closest to the site. Public health officials do not see a public health threat from asbestos exposure to people using the unrestricted areas of the Wissahickon Creek for occasional recreational purposes (e.g., fishing and swimming). However, people are encouraged to avoid contact with pipes or tiles in the creek areas.

If a person were to take these pipes out of the creek and break them, the material could dry and cause asbestos to go in the air. A few other safety tips people should keep in mind include:

- Do not bring pieces of pipe or tile home from near the site. The pipes or tiles may contain asbestos.
- If you are in the area and come in contact with suspected asbestos pipes or tiles, clean your shoes or boots outside.
- If you touch a pipe or tile, wash your hands. If you are wearing gloves, dispose of them outside.
- If you think you may have come in contact with asbestos, wash your clothes separately from your regular laundry.

The photo below is an example of what may be found in the creek. If you have any questions regarding health risks along the Wissahickon Creek, please contact the following individuals:

Lora Werner, ATSDR
215-814-3141
lkw9@cdc.gov

Barbara Allerton, PADOH
717-346-3285
ballerton@state.pa.us

CAG CORNER

The BoRit **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** was formed to represent the community's concerns, provide input to EPA, and communicate information to the public about EPA's work. Some of the CAG's work to date includes:

- Reviewing and commenting on the Rose Valley Creek stabilization project.
- Looking at options for reusing the site after the cleanup is completed.
- Participating in weekly conference calls with EPA's project managers to get technical updates and ask questions about EPA's progress and plans.
- Participating in training provided by EPA's **Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)** contract.
    - A TASC Assessment of the CAG showed that the CAG would greatly benefit from professional training in areas including communication and facilitation.

CAG MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC

The CAG meets the first Wednesday of every month, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Upper Dublin Township Building, located at 801 Loch Alsh Avenue, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034.

For more information regarding the CAG, please contact Francisco J. Cruz, EPA's **Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)**, at 215-814-5528 or cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov.

FACT CHECK

EPA staff work hard to ensure that the community has all the facts about our work. Correcting misinformation is a priority and helps us maintain positive relationships with the communities we serve. Here are a few statements that need clarification:

- **Rumor:** You see all that dirt on the site? EPA already knows it is going to cover the site with dirt and leave the site.
    - **Reality:** The soil was offered to EPA for free by PennDOT. Soil will be needed for the short-term cleanup. If there is any soil left, it may be needed for the long-term cleanup, whether the site is excavated or covered.
    - EPA has not made any decisions about the final cleanup for the site. We must complete the RI/FS process and seek public comment before a final cleanup is chosen. The options for a final cleanup will be presented to the community in a document called the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is several years away from being completed.
- **Rumor:** They are building a supermarket/ pharmacy/apartments on the site.
    - **Reality**: EPA is conducting a cleanup of the site due to asbestos contamination. *The property owners and local zoning authorities are responsible for redevelopment, not EPA.*
- **Rumor:** People are getting sick from the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site.
    - **Reality**: *EPA has conducted extensive air sampling and monitoring at the site, and there is no indication that people are currently being exposed to asbestos.* However, it is possible that people may have been exposed to asbestos when the manufacturing plant was in operation. The current work is being done proactively to address any *potential* risks the site may pose in the future.

Did you hear something about the site and aren't sure if it is true? Contact Francisco J. Cruz, EPA's CIC, at 215-814-5528 or cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

VISIT EPA'S COMMAND POST AT:
324 West Maple Avenue
Ambler, Pennsylvania

OR CONTACT EPA, REGION 3:
Stacie Peterson
Remedial Project Manager
215-814-5173
peterson.stacie@epa.gov

Eduardo Rovira
On-Scene Coordinator
215-654-5190
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Francisco J. Cruz
Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5528
cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov

EPA's BoRit Website:
http://www.epaosc.org/borit

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS AVAILABLE

In addition to the TASC services mentioned on page 3, EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to $50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund Site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, please contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator, at 1-800-553-2509.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Francisco J. Cruz
Mailcode 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

BoRit Asbestos Superfund site Community Update

Ambler Borough, Upper Dublin Township, Whitpain Township November 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 from October 2010 (Photo Courtesy of Mr. Salvatore A. Boccuti)

YOU'RE INVITED

EPA Open House @ the Daniel W. Dowling VFW Lodge #729
351 Maple Street
Ambler, PA 19002-2494
November 16, 2010
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Drop by anytime during the informal open house to meet the EPA BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site team, ask questions and see pictures and maps of the work.

Work Underway At Tannery Run

EPA started working on Tannery Run in October 2010 to stabilize the stream banks to prevent possible asbestos-containing materials (ACM) from entering the creeks through erosion. Tannery Run marks the third stream to be addressed by the EPA's **Removal Program**. The Removal Program is designed to address short-term or immediate problems. EPA completed stream bank stabilization work at Rose Valley in May 2010 and the Wissahickon Creek stream bank adjacent to the park parcel in June 2009**.**

At Tannery Run, one half of the stream bank (beginning at Maple Street) will be stabilized by placing concrete-cabled mats (CCM) on the stream banks and stream bed, similar to what was done on Rose Valley. The second half of the stream bank, from behind the auto body shop and to where it meets with the Wissahickon Creek, will be stabilized using an eight-foot diameter corrugated pipe. Water from Tannery Run will flow through the pipe and into the Wissahickon Creek. Soil will be placed on top of the corrugated pipe to keep it from being visible.

The stream bank stabilization process includes:

- Creating an access road to get heavy equipment near the stream bank;
- Using clean soil to create a level surface throughout the stream bank;
- Placing geotextile fabric in the areas where the CCM and corrugated pipe will be placed;
- Backfilling the CCM on the stream banks and the top portion of the corrugated pipe with soil; and
- Hydroseeding (a watery mix of seeds and mulch sprayed onto a location through a hose) the soil with a mix of seeds, recommended by EPA's biologists, that would best suit these areas.

EPA expects the work to continue through January 2011 and will continue to keep the community informed about our progress in future updates.

The photo above shows contractors placing concrete-cabled mats in Tannery in order to stabilize the stream bank.

What is a Remedial Investigation and Feasability Study?

In addition to the short-term stream bank stabilization work being done by EPA's Removal Program, we also began a long-term investigation in September 2009 called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study **(RI/FS).** The purpose of the RI/FS is to complete a thorough investigation of the source and extent of contamination at the site and to evaluate appropriate cleanup options. During the RI/FS, we will:

- Characterize site conditions (Where is the waste? What is contaminated?);
- Determine the nature of the waste (Is there anything other than asbestos posing a risk at this site?);
- Assess the risk to human health and the environment (Under what conditions would human health and the environment be at risk?);
- If necessary, conduct treatability testing to evaluate the potential performance and cost of the treatment technologies that are being considered; and
- Develop different long-term cleanup alternatives and conduct a detailed analysis of the viability of each alternative.

What is the Status of the RI/FS at BoRit?

EPA has completed Phase I of the Remedial Investigation. Phase II work began in October 2010 and we expect to complete this phase in December 2010.

In Phase I, EPA took a number of samples to get a better idea of where the contamination is located and determine if there are contaminants other than asbestos that may need to be addressed at the site. **(See Page #4 for Phase I results).**

<u>In Phase II of the investigation, EPA will:</u>

- Conduct activity-based sampling (ABS) both on-site and off-site **(See Page #5 for information about ABS)**;
- Determine if there are any impacts on groundwater from site-related contaminants;
- Sample soil for contamination near the old fire training location near the pile parcel;
- Further investigate the reservoir (Is it connected to the creek? Are there any outlets/inlets?); and
- Begin determining ecological and human health exposure risks in the creeks.

<u>Next Steps:</u>

- EPA expects to complete the RI/FS in *approximately* three years, depending on the needs of the investigation. It is important to note that EPA has NOT chosen a long-term cleanup option for the site. As part of the Feasibility Study, EPA will evaluate several options to clean up the site.
- EPA plans to work with the BoRit Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the community to keep them informed of our progress and of the options we're considering for the final cleanup.
- Once the RI/FS is completed, EPA will propose a final cleanup option and ask the community to comment on our proposed plan. Once all of your comments are reviewed and considered, EPA will choose the final cleanup for the site.

You can stay informed of EPA's progress through these updates, by attending the monthly CAG meetings (more information on page 7), or by visiting us at: "http://www.epaosc.org/borit"

Results of Phase I

Phase I of the Remedial Investigation was EPA's first step into conducting a full investigation of the contamination at the BoRit site. For this phase, EPA focused on gathering more information by:

- Determining the depth of the reservoir;
- Gathering sediment and surface water samples from the reservoir, Tannery Run, Rose Valley, and the Wissahickon Creek;
- Taking soil borings at all three parcels to see how deep the contamination is located;
- Sampling some of the borings for contamination;
- Installing well points to measure groundwater levels and taking groundwater samples for asbestos and other chemical contaminants; and
- Gathering surface soil samples on all three parcels and the floodplains adjacent to the site.

What did we find?

- The majority of soil borings in the park, reservoir, and pile parcels show some level of asbestos contamination
- The average thickness of asbestos contamination on the park parcel below the surface is 13 feet, with the greatest thickness of contamination being approximately 23 feet. Asbestos contamination appears to get thicker closer to the Wissahickon Creek.
- The average thickness of asbestos contamination on the pile parcel below the surface is 17 feet, with the greatest thickness of contamination being approximately 40 feet.
- The average thickness of asbestos contamination in the reservoir berm below the surface is 1 foot, with the greatest thickness of contamination being 3 feet.
- Several soil and groundwater samples exceeded ***screening levels*** for various chemical contaminants and asbestos.
    - Chemical contaminants found include benzene and naphthalene.
    - Heavy metals were also found including lead, arsenic, and mercury.

It is important to note that the screening level is used to determine if there is a potential for risk. If samples exceed the screening level, then a Baseline Risk Assessment is completed to determine if the levels pose a risk based on site-specific circumstances.

- Surface water samples in the creeks exceeded screening levels for chemical contamination, but not for asbestos.

We invite the community to view all of EPA's data from the Phase I testing at:

http://www.epaosc.org/borit (Click on "Documents", then click "Remedial" to find the link for the Phase I Remedial Investigation Report).

What is Activity Based Sampling?

During the Phase II portion of the RI/FS, EPA plans to use a sampling method called activity-based sampling (ABS). The purpose of ABS is to determine if activities that would normally occur on a property could produce dust with unacceptable levels of asbestos in the air. A sampling team wearing the proper protective clothing will create dust in the areas they want to sample. Workers need to wear protective clothing in situations where they may encounter asbestos due to federal health and safety regulations. You do not need to wear such clothing. Team members wear personal air pumps at breathing level to sample the air which a person may be breathing while the activity is occurring. Activities performed during ABS may include:

- Raking
- Mowing
- Running/Walking
- Digging
- Playing sports (sliding, diving, bike riding, etc.)

ABS sampling is important because it helps us to understand if people's day-to-day activities could expose them to unhealthy levels of asbestos. It is important to remember that asbestos can pose a hazard when it is disturbed and becomes airborne.

EPA and PADEP at Work in Ambler

Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site: Routine maintenance work at the site was completed in September 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 site was successfully cleaned up in August 1993 and deleted from the EPA's National Priorities List in 1996. In addition to the routine maintenance work, EPA evaluates the effectiveness of the cleanup every five years. 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. EPA will conduct another Five-Year Review for the site in 2012. For more information, contact David Polish, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 215-814-3327 or visit: http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD000436436/index.htm

Ambler Boilerhouse Property: EPA approved Montgomery County's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund request for $847,000 as of September 30, 2010. Cleanup is expected to begin November 2010. The cleanup is expected to last through the Spring 2011. The property will eventually become a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified office space, making it an environmentally friendly building. For more information, contact Ms. Glen Sweet, Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, at 610-275-5300.

Former K&M Manufacturing Buildings: The former manufacturing building is currently being demolished and abated by the property owner's contractors. Work is being conducted in accordance with the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants Regulations. For more information, contact PADEP's Complaint Service Representative at 484-250-5991.

Fact Check

EPA is committed to providing the community with accurate information about our work and using our "Fact Check" section to clarify misinformation.

False: The Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site's remedy has failed.

Fact: The remedy at the Ambler Asbestos Superfund Site has not failed, and continues to be protective of human health and the environment as documented in the last three Five-Year Reviews. EPA recently completed routine maintenance work at the site ensuring that it will continue to be protective. For more information about the site, go to: http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD000436436/index.htm

False: The BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site is the largest asbestos dump in the United States.

Fact: EPA has addressed, and is currently addressing, several asbestos sites across the country that are larger than the BoRit site in Ambler. Examples include the Libby Asbestos site in Libby, Montana, and the recently deleted Asbestos Dump Superfund Site in Long Hill Township, New Jersey.

False: The house on 324 West Maple Street is a front for law enforcement activity.

Fact: The house is not a front for law enforcement activities. EPA leased the house to use as a field office because it's close to the BoRit site and located in the community that we serve. The public is invited to visit the field office during regular business hours to meet with EPA employees, ask questions and look at site maps and pictures.

Did you hear something about the site and you aren't sure if it is true? Contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinators for the facts.

Vance Evans
215-814-5526
evans.vance@epa.gov

Francisco J. Cruz
215-814-5528
cruz.franciscoj@epa.gov

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.epaosc.org/borit

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

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 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 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 upcoming issue…

-Update on the Tannery Run work

-Update on Phase II of the RI/FS, including any available sample results

-A photo history of EPA's work at BoRit since 2007

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

YOU'RE INVITED

EPA Open House @ the Daniel W. Dowling VFW Lodge #729

351 Maple Street

Ambler, PA 19002-2494

November 16, 2010

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Drop by anytime during the informal open house to meet the EPA BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site team, ask questions and see pictures and maps of the work.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Vance Evans
Mailcode 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BoRit Superfund site Community Update

AMBLER BOROUGH, UPPER DUBLIN &WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS, PA JULY 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site in Ambler, PA. The Site was used from the 1930s to the 1970s to dispose of asbestos-containing materials (**ACM**) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products plant. EPA is cleaning up the site because studies show that asbestos fibers, if inhaled, can cause health concerns.

The site is divided into three distinct sections: a reservoir; a pile; and a closed park. This fact sheet is an update on cleanup accomplishments and next steps. EPA will continue to keep the community informed as work progresses.

Aerial view of BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Photo courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

- **EPA stabilized stream banks** along the Wissahickon and Rose Valley Creeks and Tannery Run, to keep ACM from entering these waters. Due to damage from Tropical Storm Lee, stabilization materials along Rose Valley Creek must be repaired.
- **EPA covered the Pile** with a geotextile (fabric) liner, with a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, grass, and straw mats for erosion control. The cover, which exceeds federal air protection standards, stabilizes the Pile and protects human health and the environment.
- A **drainage swale** was built along the perimeter of the pile to manage future storm water runoff, and an **access ramp to the top of the Pile** was built for future maintenance.

Stream Bank Stabilization

View from Sons of Italy parking lot

View from old dam in Wissahickon Creek

Pile Cover

View of back portion of the Pile

View of reservoir side of the Pile

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Reconstruct Rose Valley Creek —** Starting early this summer, EPA will start reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek's stream bank stabilization. The new design will be a combination of the cable concrete mats and riprap stone. The new design and materials will provide a stronger, more stable stream bank, and added vegetation will blend with the natural environment.
- **Cover Park Area —** Once Rose Valley Creek is done, the Park Area will be covered in the same manner as the Pile, with a geotextile (fabric) liner, a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, grass, and straw mats for erosion control. The cover, which will exceed federal air protection standards, will stabilize the Park Area, and protect human health and the environment.

Damage from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011

A massive volume of water and debris broke through a chain link fence at Maple Street during the storm, rushing into Rose Valley Creek, causing damage to the concrete mats shown above. Starting this summer, EPA will repair the damage.

EPA has already installed a swing gate at Maple Street so water can be released more gradually during heavy storms, and we installed a guard rail to prevent large debris from entering Rose Valley Creek.

Remedial Investigations Continue

- **Sampling** — Sampling data, including soil, air, groundwater, surface water and sediment was collected, in various phases, from 2009 to 2011. Those results are being quality checked and compiled to prepare for upcoming risk assessments. EPA will conduct one more round of groundwater sampling, to confirm results. Initial sampling results are available in two reports on our website under *Documents and Reports*. www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm
- **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments** — EPA will be conducting human health and ecological risk assessments, once all the sampling data analysis is completed. These risk assessments evaluate the potential human and ecological risks, if exposed to asbestos. They are used as guides in determining the final cleanup methods. A report on the risk assessments and sampling is expected to be available in 2013.

For More Information

Field Office Location:

49 Oak Street, Ambler

(215) 654-5190

Contacts:

Community Involvement Coordinator

Ruth Wuenschel, (215) 814-5540

wuenschel.ruth@epa.gov

On-Scene Coordinator

Eduardo Rovira, (215) 814-3436

rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Remedial Project Manager

Kristine Matzko, (215) 814-5719

matzko.kristine@epa.gov

Websites:

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In order to cover the Park area, additional clean fill and top soil will be trucked through the neighborhood. Residents on Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Maple Street and Oak Street will experience this truck traffic from 8 am to 4 pm weekdays, starting in the fall. Residents on these streets are advised to use extra caution with children and pets during this time.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Ruth Wuenschel (Mailcode 3HS52)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EPA Update for the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site July 2012

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia

BoRit Superfund Site Community Update

Ambler borough, Upper Dublin & Whitpain townships, Pa Spring 2013

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues its cleanup at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site in Ambler, PA. The Site was used from the 1930s to the 1970s to dispose of asbestos-containing materials (**ACM**) from the Keasbey & Mattison Company, an asbestos products plant.

The Site is divided into three distinct sections: the Reservoir; the Pile; and the former Park Area. This fact sheet is an update on cleanup accomplishments and next steps. EPA will continue to keep the community informed as work progresses.

The Pile Cover is complete. Aerial photo courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti.

What work was recently completed?

- **The Pile cover has been completed.** The cover, which exceeds federal requirements, stabilizes the Pile and protects human health and the environment by containing the ACM. The cover consists of a geotextile (fabric) liner, a minimum of two feet of clean fill, six inches of top soil, and vegetation and erosion control mats. A **drainage swale** was built along the perimeter of the Pile to manage storm water runoff. An **access ramp** to the top of the Pile was built for future maintenance.
- **Site's adjacent stream banks have been stabilized.** The Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run were stabilized to keep ACM from entering these waters. Due to damage from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, EPA had to re-do the work along Rose Valley Creek. During the reconstruction, heavier cable-concrete mats were used along the creek bed, and rip rap stone was used along the banks to help withstand future weather events (photos next page).

Reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek Completed

Reconstruction of Rose Valley Creek, looking upstream.

Rose Valley Creek, from the ramp to/from the Park.

WHAT WORK IS ONGOING?

- **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** is studying the Reservoir to better understand its hydrology and berm stability. The Corps will provide recommendations from the study on how to cover the ACM along the inside banks of the Reservoir. Work at the Reservoir is expected to start this summer.
- **EPA completed the design for the Park Area cover.** The cover design for the Park Area uses the same approach as the Pile Area. Geotextile fabric and a minimum of two feet of clean fill will be placed over the entire 11 acres. Then, the area will be hydroseeded to promote vegetation, and straw mats will be installed for erosion control. Trees and shrubs will be planted in specific areas (e.g., along the alleyway).
- **Completion of Park Area cover is delayed.** EPA was expecting to complete the work at the Park Area this year; however, since we will be covering the ACM along the inside banks of the Reservoir, we need to use portions of the Park Area to stage equipment during the Reservoir work. The Park Area will be covered once the Reservoir work is completed.
- **The fence along the alley has been removed** and replaced with temporary fencing, which will stay in place for the foreseeable future. The slope along the alleyway has been cut back to a stable gradient, and a trench has been excavated to prepare the area for a new curb and planting area (see photos next page).

Work along the alleyway for new curb and planting area

View of working excavation along the alleyway at the north end of the Site, facing south.

View of the working area along the alleyway by the Rose Valley headwall, facing north.

What's next in the Investigation process?

- **Groundwater sampling.** EPA will collect the second of three rounds of groundwater samples in May 2013. The third round is planned for July 2013. EPA will again sample for a variety of contaminants including: asbestos, volatile organics, semi-volatile organics, metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and inorganics.
- **Background* groundwater well monitoring.** EPA plans to install a groundwater monitoring well at a background location to sample the groundwater that is in the vicinity of the Site, but that is not being influenced by any site operations.
- **Background* soil sampling.** EPA plans to take background soil samples in June 2013. Locations need to be identified and access confirmed prior to the sampling.
- **Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).** EPA will prepare the final RI/FS Report which will include the investigation results, the Human Health Risk Assessment, and the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment. The Report will also evaluate the options for a final site remedy. The conclusions from the final RI/FS will be included in EPA's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP will describe EPA's preferred option for a final site remedy. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the RI/FS and our preferred remedy.

*** Background samples are taken for comparison, from areas far enough away from a site, so as not to be influenced by any potential contamination at the Site.**

For More Information

Field Office Location:

49 Oak Street, Ambler

(215) 654-5190

Contacts:

Community Involvement Coordinator

Ruth Wuenschel, (215) 814-5540

wuenschel.ruth@epa.gov

On-Scene Coordinator

Eduardo Rovira, (215) 814-3436

rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Remedial Project Manager

Jill Lowe (215) 814-3123

lowe.jill@epa.gov

Websites:

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

New EPA Team Member on Board

The BoRit Asbestos team welcomes Jill Lowe, Licensed Professional Engineer, as the new Remedial Project Manger. Jill has been working as an Environmental Engineer since 1980 beginning with the U.S. Navy, Lakehurst, NJ. She started her career as a Remedial Project Manager with the EPA in 1998, and has managed various complex sites in Eastern Pennsylvania. Jill will continue to move the Site through the long-term Remedial cleanup.

Address Label Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Ruth Wuenschel (Mail code 3HS52)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

BoRit overflight July 2015
(© 2015 Courtesy of Salvatore A. Boccuti)

CONTACT US:

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deitzel.carrie@epa.gov
215-814-5525

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Community Involvement Coordinator
evans.vance@epa.gov
215-814-5526

Jill Lowe (3HS21)
Remedial Project Manager
lowe.jill@epa.gov
215-814-3123

FOR ADDITIONAL SITE INFORMATION:

BoRit Superfund Site Page:
http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm

Frequently Asked Questions about the BoRit Site:
http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887/QA/faq/index.html

BoRit Community Advisory Group (CAG) Site Page:
http://www.boritcag.org/

A Community's Guide to EPA Superfund Program:
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/today/pdfs/TIS%20FINAL%209.13.11.pdf

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Carrie Deitzel
Mail Code: 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

BoRit SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. EPA - Region 3

Community Update
July 2015

SUPERFUND

From Discovery to Cleanup

1. Site Discovery
2. Site Evaluation
3. NPL Listing
4. Remedial Investigation
5. Feasibility Study ← **WE ARE HERE**
6. Proposed Plan
7. Remedy Selection
8. Remedial Design
9. Remedial Action
10. Operation and Maintenance
11. NPL Deletion
12. Reuse

For more information about the Superfund Process, visit: **http://go.usa.gov/M7RY**

The EPA has conducted an investigation of the BoRit site to determine what protective actions may be needed to protect human health and the environment in the long term. This investigation is concluding, and EPA is preparing to present its findings to community members in the Fall. This brochure explains how those findings will be shared and how you may participate in the public comment process.

What is a Proposed Cleanup Plan?
After EPA has completed all of its investigations at a site and all of the cleanup options are evaluated, EPA prepares a Proposed Plan that recommends the option it considers best for the site. You will be able to review and comment on the Plan during a public comment period that will be announced in the Fall. The proposed cleanup plan:

⇒ Summarizes all viable cleanup alternatives evaluated for the site.

⇒ Highlights EPA'S preferred cleanup options.

⇒ Discusses site history, investigation results, and reasonably anticipated future uses of the site, and explains community involvement opportunities.

Process at a Glance

STEP 1: EPA announces the proposed cleanup plan to the public and opens a 30-day public comment period:

⇒ EPA will place an ad in the local newspaper announcing the availability of the proposed cleanup plan, the duration of the public comment period, and the public meeting.

⇒ EPA will mail a fact sheet to the community summarizing the proposed cleanup plan for the BoRit site and announcing the dates of the public comment period and public meeting.

⇒ The proposed cleanup plan will be made available for public review online, at EPA's regional office, and at the information repository for the community. See below.

◊ To view info online:
http://go.usa.gov/3VGNV

◊ U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street—6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215)814-3157 *By appointment

◊ BoRit Command Post
49 Oak Street
Whitpain Township, PA 19002

STEP 2: EPA accepts public comments on the proposed cleanup plan:

⇒ During the 30-day comment period, you are invited to participate in any of the following ways:

⇒ **By letter to:**
Jill Lowe
Remedial Project Manager
US EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street (3HS21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

⇒ **By email to:** Lowe.jill@epa.gov

⇒ **In Person:** During the comment period, EPA will host a public meeting to present the details of the proposed cleanup plan to the public and to record any comments presented. A court reporter will be present to document the proceedings.

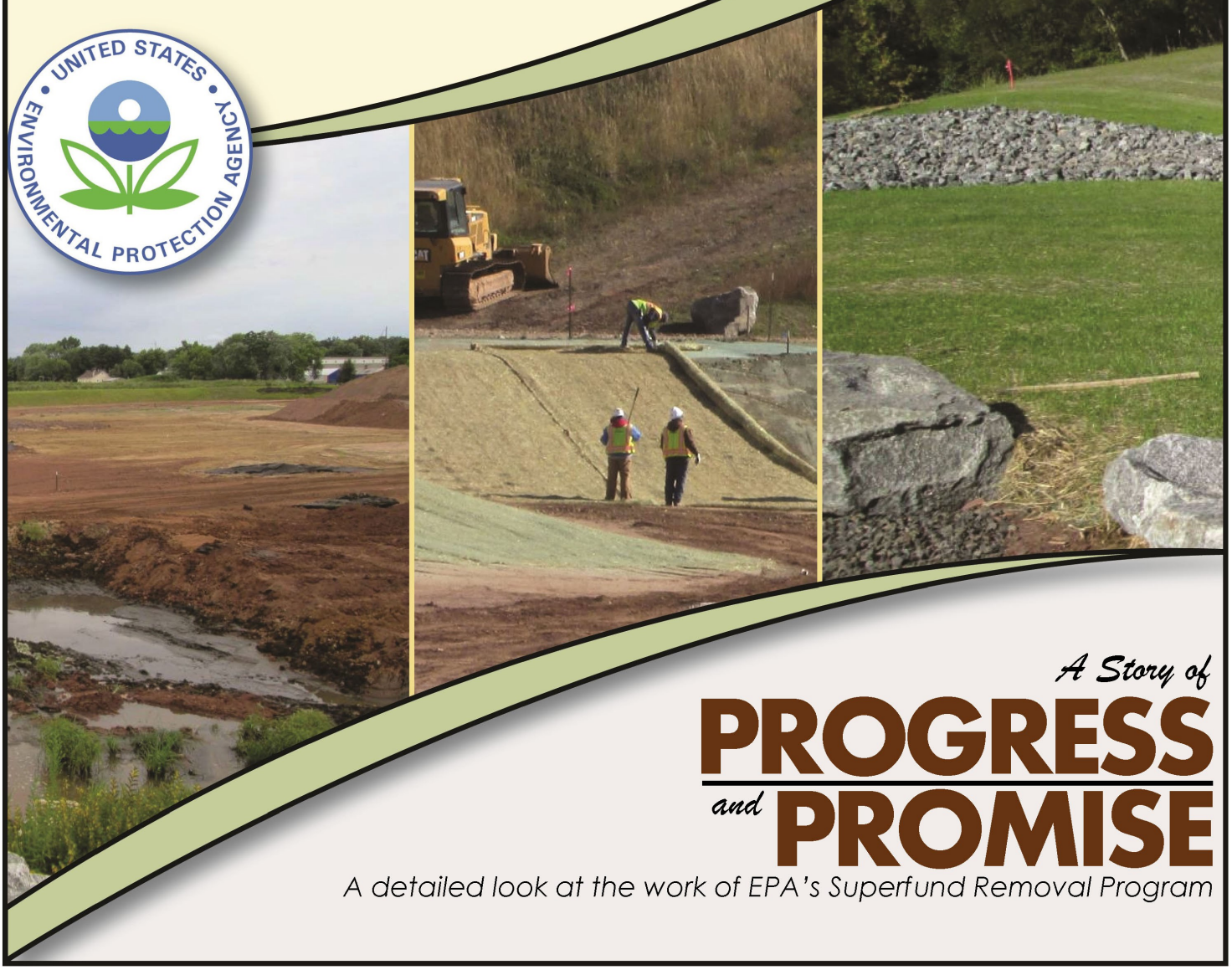
STEP 3: EPA prepares the Responsiveness Summary:

⇒ After the public comment period ends, EPA will prepare responses to the oral and written comments received. The comments and EPA's responses will be documented in a Responsiveness Summary which will become part of the final decision document for the site.

The

BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

Ambler, PA **January 2016**



A Story of

PROGRESS *and* PROMISE

A detailed look at the work of EPA's Superfund Removal Program

Above: *Aerial photograph of the BoRit site taken in 2009.* ***Top Right:*** *Before EPA began work at the site in 2008, visible asbestos-containing debris littered the site surface.* ***Bottom Right:*** *Slurry containing asbestos was also present in some areas of the site.*

ASSET OR BURDEN?

Today, a former asbestos waste dump located at the intersection of the Borough of Ambler and Whitpain and Upper Dublin Townships, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, is well on the way to becoming an attractive green space.

With expansive grassy fields, strewn with seasonal wildflowers, and an 11-acre reconstructed pond, the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site is already welcoming migrating birds, and in the not-too-distant future, an 11-acre portion of the site may be re-established as a community park. Yet, some people say the site is just a dirt-covered mound of asbestos waste that threatens the welfare of surrounding communities and future recreational users.

Is the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site just a pile of dirt-covered waste? Or is there more there than meets the eye? What is under all that grass and greenery? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know about the work that has been done at the BoRit site to protect human health and the environment now and in the future.

What is under all that grass and greenery? The U.S. EPA wants you to know about the work that has been done at the BoRit site.

THE BOOM TO BUST CYCLE

There was a time when the Ambler area was primarily agricultural. The arrival of the railroads, however, not only expanded local farmers' access to larger markets, it attracted the attention of entrepreneurs whose initial pharmaceutical enterprise evolved into the lucrative emerging industry of asbestos products manufacturing. In Ambler, manufacturing facilities could take advantage of the abundance of available water resources provided by

For decades, Ambler Borough prospered as the home of several manufacturing facilities that made asbestos-containing materials such as tiles, shingles, pipes, and fire-retardant textiles.

the confluence of Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek, and Tannery Run.

For decades, Ambler Borough prospered as the home of several manufacturing facilities that made asbestos-containing materials such as tiles, shingles, pipes, and fire-retardant textiles.The manufacturing processes, however, also generated asbestos-containing wastes that resulted in the creation of massive piles of discarded asbestos products and a thick, paste-like sludge consisting of calcium carbonate, magnesium, and asbestos fibers. The waste materials were left behind under a cover of soil when the facilities closed their doors in the latter half of the 20th century, as the harmful nature of asbestos became known.

At first, the soil covering the waste materials supported dense vegetation that helped to control erosion. But at the dump site now known as the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, time and weather, including rain and wind storms and reoccurring flooding, wore away at the base of the waste piles and portions of the slopes. By 2006, when EPA reassessed the site, asbestos-containing materials (ACM) were visible in Wissahickon Creek, Tannery Run, and Rose Valley Creek which border or intersect the BoRit site and run along the edge of the waste piles. Broken products were also exposed on some of the steeply sloped sides of the piles, In the portion of the site located in Ambler, contaminated sludge was also present.

When EPA reassessed the site in 2006, discarded and broken asbestos-containing materials (ACM) littered the creeks surrounding the BoRit site and the slopes of the waste piles. These pictures show portions of Wissahickon Creek and an adjacent slope of the former West Ambler community park which was closed in the 1980s because of asbestos concerns.

WHY DID EPA CONDUCT A REASSESSMENT?

While sampling conducted by EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) confirmed the presence of asbestos in the waste piles at BoRit in the 1980s, the piles were covered by soil and vegetation which limited the risk of exposure. The site was fenced, and no asbestos was detected in surface water or groundwater samples taken at the site. As a result, the site was not a candidate for cleanup by EPA and it remained under the jurisdiction of the PADEP.

In 2005, the BoRit site was, again, brought to EPA's attention when community residents became concerned about plans for development on the 6-acre portion of the waste site located in Ambler

Borough. Initially, concerns focused on aesthetic and nuisance issues, such as building height and increased traffic congestion. But soon, concern shifted to the potential for construction activities to cause the release of asbestos fibers into the air where they could pose increased health risks. The concerns of residents led EPA and PADEP to plan a sampling event to establish baseline conditions at the site. EPA conducted sampling of the entire 32-acre site, in April 2006, and found that asbestos-containing materials were visible on the surface and in the three adjacent waterways. The visible wastes caused EPA to initiate a Removal Action at the BoRit site in July 2008.

WHAT IS SUPERFUND?

The EPA Superfund program is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places.

EPA contractors picking up miscellaneous debris and asbestos-containing materials (ACM) from the streams and the site surface at the start of work at the site. The materials filled more than 288 shipping containers and were taken offsite to a permitted disposal facility.

Aerial view of site, taken in November 2015, shows work in progress on the park parcel and work completed on the pile parcel and the former reservoir now called the pond. Improvements made to the pond include a 1/2-acre island for nesting migratory birds and a viewing area and trails along Maple Avenue.

CLEANUP ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER SUPERFUND LAW

The U.S. EPA is authorized to take actions under a number of environmental laws including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the Superfund law. Initially, the law provided for a tax on chemical and petroleum industries. The tax went into a trust fund that was used to investigate and cleanup abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites across the country. Although the taxing authority expired in the mid-1990s, the name Superfund is still used to refer to the Removal and Remedial programs established under CERCLA. It is CERCLA that provides EPA the authority to conduct the investigation and cleanup activities now occurring at BoRit.

THE SUPERFUND REMOVAL ACTION

Since July 2008, EPA's Removal Program has been conducting major construction activities at BoRit. When the Removal Program initiated action, its primary goal was to eliminate the exposure pathways that could allow asbestos fibers to move in the environment. The most significant pathways were surface water, which was exposing asbestos waste by eroding the soil cover along the stream banks, and wind, which was eroding the surface of the waste piles and other areas where vegetation was sparse. Because asbestos is most damaging to human health when it is inhaled, EPA's primary objective became preventing water and wind from eroding the waste piles and exposing asbestos-containing materials which might become friable (crumbly) and release asbestos fibers into the environment.

WHAT HAS THE REMOVAL ACTION ACCOMPLISHED?

The Removal Program is completing construction of a protective cap across the entire BoRit site, including the bottom and walls of the on-site pond. The cap will immobilize contaminants by preventing air and water from coming into contact with contaminated materials. EPA expects the cap to be completed in 2016.

There are several components to the cap. A heavy geotextile was placed over the entire 32-acre site. Next, the geotextile was covered by a minimum of two feet of clean soil. Because the site is bordered by Wissahickon Creek and Tannery Run and dissected by Rose Valley Creek -- three waterways which are prone to flooding -- it is important to protect the cap from the daily water flow, as well as from storm surges. So, the stream beds were widened to accommodate heavier storm-water flows. Then, they were lined with geotextile and cabled-concrete mats which were anchored to the soil with specialized construction anchors that were driven deep into the earth. When they are opened, the anchors function much like toggle bolts and can hold great weight. The cabled-concrete mats line the creek bottoms and extend up the stream banks to above the historic flood lines.

Top Left: Tannery Run before work began. Middle Left (2): Tannery Run was significantly widened to help reduce flooding. Geotextile and cabled concrete mats (CCMs), which are secured with specialized anchors that extend deep into the soil, line the open portion of the stream bed. Bottom Left: Gaps in the CCM were filled with soil and seeded. Top Right: Worker secures CCM. Bottom Right: By May 2011, plants had sprouted and held up well to heavy rains. Plants and their root systems play an important part in controlling erosion.

The 25-ft.-high embankment of Tannery Run, behind Butler Street businesses, was eroding and destabilizing parking lots. EPA enclosed a 325-foot portion of the stream to prevent collapse. ***Top Left:*** *Crew installs the headwall to anchor the 8-ft-diameter pipe through which the stream will flow.* ***Top Right:*** *Water will flow from the lined open channel into the 8-ft. diameter pipe at the headwall.* ***Bottom Left:*** *Workers install first section of 8-ft-diameter pipe.* ***Bottom Right:*** *Liner and pipe were covered with 2,640 cubic yards of stone; the enclosed area was finished with soil and seeded.*

In September 2011, Tropical Storm Lee damaged work that had been done at the BoRit site, but it also provided lessons for how to better protect the site against future severe weather events.

Upper Left: *During Tropical Storm Lee, water and debris burst through the old sluice gate at Maple Ave., sweeping down Rose Valley Creek and destroying the recently installed cabled concrete mats (CCM). Although a setback, the experience helped EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers to improve and strengthen the stream liner system.* ***Lower Left:*** *Contractor conducting CCM repair after the storm.* ***Upper Right:*** *Restored and strengthened stream liner at Rose Valley Creek headwall.* ***Lower Right:*** *A new swing-gate was installed at Maple Avenue/ Rose Valley Creek sluiceway. The gate is designed to release water slowly during future storm events.*

Large, heavy rocks, commonly called rip rap, are layered over the cabled concrete mats to help ensure that heavy storms, do not lift the mats or erode the stream banks.

In September 2011, Tropical Storm Lee did cause damage to earlier work that had been done at BoRit. But it also provided lessons for how to protect the site against future severe weather events. For example, storm water carried debris down Rose Valley Creek during the storm. When the debris reached the sluiceway under Maple Street in West Ambler, it collected until mounting water pressure caused an explosive release that endangered residents and damaged work done downstream at the Borit site. In addition to repairing the damage at the site, EPA made improvements to the Rose Valley Creek channel at Maple Street by adding a swing gate to gradually release water during future storms. EPA also added a guard rail upstream to prevent cars and large debris from entering the channel. Although the storm caused a set-back to the Removal Action, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) used the experience to fortify the repair work at the site and to strengthen the remaining work in the stream beds and the pond. USACE frequently is contracted by EPA to provide construction expertise on projects. Along the Wissahickon Creek, a honeycomb made of high-density polyethylene was anchored to the slopes of the waste piles and the outer walls of the onsite pond. The compartments of the honeycomb were filled and then covered with soil on the upper slopes and with rocks on the lower slopes. The honeycomb structure increases the stability of the site slopes and helps plants to take root. As sections of the cap were completed, workers hydro-seeded the soil with native grasses and wildflowers. Finally, the seeded areas were covered with erosion mats made of straw or, on steep slopes, woven, high-performance, turf mats, which allowed the seeds time to sprout. The seed mixture was selected for its suitability to the local climate and the terrain, and the stabilizing growth habits of the plants.

Top Left: *Temporary pumps and a sandbag dam were installed to create a dry work area for rebuilding Rose Valley Creek.* ***Upper Middle:*** *Stream water was re-routed through 700 feet of piping and discharged into Wissahickon Creek while Rose Valley was being widened and lined.* ***Lower Middle:*** *Before geotextile and cabled concrete mats (CCM) were laid, workers placed a layer of stone on the floor of Rose Valley Creek.* ***Bottom Left:*** *For added security, rip rap was placed over the CCM on the stream embankment.* ***Top Right:*** *Rose Valley Creek after being repaired and widened to reduce future flooding.*

Geotextile was laid over the entire 32-acre site. Additional components of the cap were layered over the textile. ***Top Left:*** *Workers secure high-density polyethylene geocells resembling a honeycomb over geotextile on a steep embankment of the Wissahickon.* ***Bottom Left:*** *A crane was used to fill geocells with stone. Soil was later placed over the geotextile and geocells and seeded.* ***Top Right:*** *Workers place geosynthetic clay-impregnated liner (GCL) on an inside section of the pond berm to increase structural stability.* ***Bottom Right:*** *Workers pore bentonite along the seams of the clay liner.* ***Center:*** *Workers hydro-seeding berm. Straw mats prevent erosion and help seeds to sprout.*

As they mature, the plants will help to sustain and shelter migrating birds and native wildlife. The seeds sprouted quickly, and the roots of the plants now form a living erosion barrier.

The 10-acre impoundment, now referred to as 'the pond', was also stabilized and improved. Its walls (aka berms), which were built of the same materials as the waste piles, were unstable in some areas when work began, especially along portions of the Wissahickon and Rose Valley Creeks. Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA drained the pond of 31 million gallons of standing water and treated the water before releasing it into Wissahickon Creek. The pond bottom contained the remains of trees cut down and left in place when the impoundment was originally constructed. The tree stumps were removed, and the geotextile was laid. Then it was covered with a minimum of two feet of soil. In unstable areas of the berm and the pond bottom, lime was mixed into the soggy base materials and a clay-impregnated liner was laid on the inner surface of the berm to add stability. The outer walls of the berms were treated in the same manner as other areas of the site with various combinations of geotextile, soil, polyethylene honeycomb fabric or cabled concrete mats, and rip rap, as appropriate for each area. Additionally, an island was constructed in the pond to provide habitat for migratory birds.

Water from the Wissahickon is being pumped and filtered at a rate of about 300 gallons per minute, seven days a week.

On October 5, 2015, refilling the pond began. Water from the Wissahickon is being pumped and filtered at a rate of about 300 gallons per minute, seven days a week. EPA estimates it will take 25 million gallons of water to reach the desired surface water elevation for the pond, which may take up to four months of pumping to complete.

Top Left: *Workers measure a section of Rose Valley Creek to prepare stream-bank stabilization plans.* ***Middle Left:*** *ACM, wetted, bagged and wrapped in plastic, is transported to Roll-Off shipping containers for disposal off-site.* ***Top Right:*** *Onsite access roads were built to ensure vehicles drove only on clean surfaces. Here, workers are placing geotextile and covering it with gravel.* ***Lower Right:*** *To suppress dust, water was used whenever contaminated materials were disturbed.*

CAN CONSTRUCTION BE CONDUCTED SAFELY AT AN ASBESTOS SITE?

Throughout the work at the BoRit site, protecting the health of site workers and community members was, and continues to be, EPA's top priority. Whenever site work involved disturbing contaminated soil, water cannons were used to deeply saturate the soil to prevent the contaminants from becoming airborne. If a release of asbestos fibers were to occur, EPA personnel and contractors working on the site would be the first and most directly affected population. So, protecting onsite workers' health is of paramount importance, and it also ensures the protection of the surrounding communities. In addition to personal air monitors worn by site personnel, monitors were located along the fence-line to monitor ambient air for the presence of contaminants.

The construction of access roads throughout the site is another example of a protective measure taken by EPA to protect workers and community members. In order for trucks and heavy equipment to move about the site, gravel and clean fill were brought in to build roadways, all of which were underlain with geotextile like the rest of the cap. This ensured that trucks and other equipment did not drive through contaminated soils. Additionally, even though vehicles drive only on clean soil, equipment leaving the site is washed down to help limit the amount of nuisance dirt tracked through the neighborhood. While some dirt is still tracked onto local streets, EPA wants residents to know that when soil is tracked into the streets from the site it is clean fill.

Top Left: *Thirty-one million gallons of water were drained from the old reservoir through these holding tanks so that work on the pond could begin. Additional pumping was needed after each rain.* ***Upper Middle:*** *From the holding tanks, water went into these filtration units to be treated and sampled before being released into Wissahickon Creek. Throughout the project, more than 37 million gallons of water were treated.* ***Lower Middle:*** *When the water was drained, trunks of trees cut down decades ago were revealed and had to be removed.* ***Bottom Left:*** *Contractors work on the liner for the former reservoir which includes geotextile, GCL, and at least two feet of soil.* ***Top Right:*** *After the final soil cover was placed on the berm and seeded, straw mats were laid to ensure seeds had time to take root.* ***Bottom Right:*** *Water from the Wissahickon was pumped into the finished pond at 300 gallons/minute, 12 hours/day, 7 days/week. When the pond is filled, the stone piles will be submerged and will provide protection for fish and turtles.*

IS REDEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE?

As the Removal work progressed, the question of the BoRit site's future was raised by various members of the community. It is up to the property owners, not to EPA, to decide how sites may be reused, as long as redevelopment does not damage the protections that EPA put in place. From EPA's perspective, beneficial reuse or redevelopment could include a wide range of possibilities from open-space plans and improved natural habitat to economic redevelopment scenarios. Of the three parcels comprising the BoRit site, beneficial reuses are already planned by the owners of two properties.

The pond property is a bird sanctuary owned by the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve. It will continue to be a refuge for migrating birds. In fact, even in the midst of construction, the birds continued to come and nest undeterred by heavy equipment and busy workers. A small island now sits in the pond to provide nesting areas for waterfowl and protect them from predators. Several small rock formations also dot the pond and will provide sheltering habitat for small aquatic species. Additionally, a new earthen peninsula will allow community members to enjoy the beauty of the restored environment and observe the birds from a respectful distance. There are currently no plans for the smallest parcel which raised local concerns back in 2005 and is located in Ambler along Tannery Run and adjacent to the pond. However, the largest parcel, which is owned by Whitpain Township, is expected to become a community park. The Township plans to redevelop the West Ambler parcel to replace the park that closed in the 1980s because of asbestos contamination. To ensure that EPA's cap will not prevent such redevelopment in the future, EPA worked with Whitpain Township to locate the water and sewer lines that the park will require and to extend them to the top of the cap. (It must be noted that this work was completed by the township at the township's expense, as EPA does not fund the redevelopment of Superfund properties.) EPA is confident that with proper planning a community park can be compatible with the work EPA is completing at the BoRit site. Furthermore, the routine maintenance that a community park would require would provide an added layer of oversight to complement any oversight and operation and maintenance activities that will be required under Superfund.

EPA is confident that with proper planning a community park can be compatible with the work EPA is completing at the BoRit site.

Left: *An eagle perches on one of several tree branches anchored in the pond to provide sanctuary for birds. The rock pile is one of many built to shelter fish and other aquatic animals. Temporary white flags help to keep birds from disturbing young plants before roots have matured.* ***Right:*** *Wildflowers covered finished areas of the site in Spring 2015.*

THE TRANSFORMATION OF BORIT

Re-engineering makes Superfund site safe for re-use

What's Going On?

The EPA is wrapping up it's 8-year Superfund removal action at a former asbestos waste dump. Long dominated by heavy equipment and scraped earth, the 32-acre site is once again a grassy expanse dotted by wildflowers.

3,000 TONS

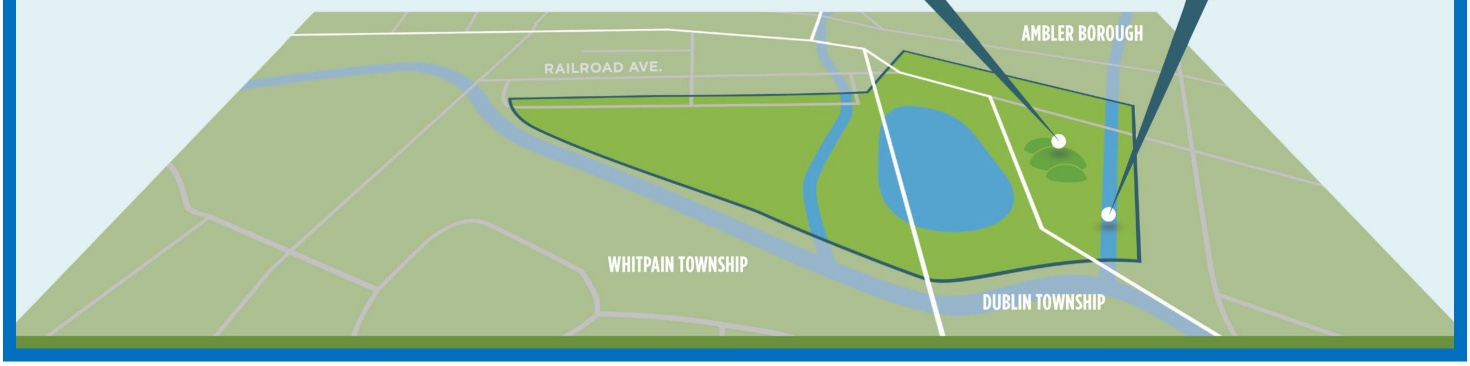
tons of ACM and other waste were trucked off site (sprayed with water to prevent dust). Asbestos is a health risk when particles get into the air and are breathed into the lungs.

A PROTECTIVE CAP

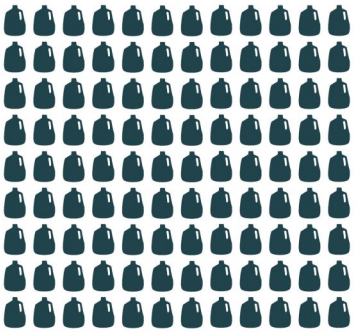
Geotextile fabric was placed over the entire site, including the bottom of the pond and two creeks. Then the area was covered by two feet or more of clean soil and seeded with native grass and wildflowers to prevent erosion.

RE-ENGINEERED CREEKS

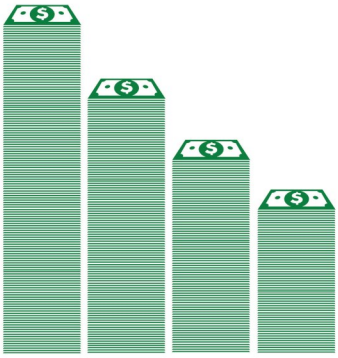
Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run were widened to accommodate storm flows. Then the bottoms and sides were lined with cabled concrete mats and large rocks called rip rap.



15,500
TRUCKLOADS OF CLEAN FILL DELIVERED



37.8 MILLION
GALLONS OF WATER TREATED ONSITE



$23.5 MILLION
SPENT ON RE-ENGINEERING THE SITE

- Ambler Borough
- Dublin Township
- Whitpain Township

The Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve pond was restored to accommodate migrating birds and aquatic animals.

Whitpain Township plans to build a park that will serve the residents of West Ambler and surrounding neighborhoods.

What's Next

Early next year, EPA will release its **Proposed Remedial Action Plan**. Residents will have a minimum of 30 days to provide input in person, by email or by letter.

When all remedial work is finished, owners may redevelop the property as long as they don't damage any components of the EPA remedy.

A new trail juts into the pond at the waterfowl preserve.

WHEN WILL WORK AT THE SITE BE DONE?

The goal of the Removal Program is to complete the removal action in 2016, weather permitting. In addition to completing the Removal Action, EPA is also completing a long-term investigation at BoRit called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The purpose of the RI/FS is to study the potential long-term effects the site may have on human health and the environment and to propose a final plan to address any identified risks. When the RI /FS is completed, it will be summarized in a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan). The Proposed Plan will outline the options EPA evaluated to address contamination at the site, including the agency's preferred option.

EPA expects to release the Proposed Plan for BoRit in early 2016. At that time, the Proposed Plan will be made available to the public for review, and community members will be encouraged to provide their comments in one of the following ways:

1. *In person by joining members of EPA's BoRit site team at a public meeting which will be held during the public comment period;*
2. *By sending an email; or*
3. *By sending a letter to the EPA Remedial Project Manager for the BoRit site.*

When the Proposed Plan is released for review, EPA will announce its availability and the commenting options in local newspapers and by mail or email to those on EPA's mailing lists.

TO BE ADDED TO EPA'S MAILING AND/OR EMAIL LISTS, CONTACT:

Carrie Deitzel
Community Involvement Coordinator
US EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street (3HS52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
215-814-5525
deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EPA'S WORK AT BORIT AND TO SEE MORE PICTURES OF SITE PROGRESS, VISIT:

http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=2475

http://www2.epa.gov/ambler

BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

EPA Releases Proposed Cleanup Plan for Public Comment

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the **BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site,** located in Whitpain and Upper Dublin Townships and Ambler Borough in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The site consists of three streams and three parcels: the Park parcel, Reservoir parcel, and the Asbestos pile parcel (See Figure, page 3 for details).

The PRAP evaluates five alternatives to address asbestos contamination at the Site in the long-term, including EPA's preferred alternative.

The PRAP is based on the results of several investigations and a study completed by the EPA:

1. *Remedial Investigation:* Completed November 2013;
2. *Remedial Investigation Addendum:* Completed May 2015;
3. *Feasibility Study:* Completed November 2016.

This fact sheet summarizes EPA's preferred alternative only. To read the complete PRAP and supporting documentation, please visit:

http://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR64805

EPA's Preferred Alternative

Of the five alternatives evaluated, EPA is proposing **Alternative WSS2: Capping** as the preferred alternative for the long-term protection of human health and the environment.

In proposing this alternative, EPA incorporates the work that has already been completed at the site which includes covering the asbestos-containing wastes, soils, and reservoir sediments with geotextile fabric, a minimum of 2 feet of clean material, and 6 inches of topsoil and vegetation.

Public Meeting

You're invited to submit comments on EPA's proposed cleanup plan at the upcoming public meeting on:

January 10, 2017
Ambler Borough Building Gymnasium
131 Rosemary Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Public Comment Period

Comments may also be submitted anytime during the public comment period which runs from **December 04, 2016 to February 1, 2017**

To review the proposed cleanup plan please go to:

https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2238056

Or visit:

Information Repository
Wissahickon Valley Library
Ambler Branch
209 Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002

To submit comments, see back page of this fact sheet.

EPA's Preferred Alternative (cont'd)

In addition to the capping work that has been completed, the preferred alternative also includes the following components to ensure the long-term protection of human health and the environment:

✓ Post-construction sampling

✓ Restrictions on the future use of the site

✓ Long-term maintenance

✓ Long-term monitoring

EPA believes the preferred alternative is the best balance of the nine criteria that EPA is obligated to evaluate while considering remedial action alternatives. The preferred alternative meets these criteria and also meets the long-term goals for the site which are to:

✓ Minimize the risk of inhalation of asbestos-contaminated wastes and soils

✓ Prevent wildlife from coming into contact with asbestos waste or asbestos-contaminated soil or sediment, as well as sediment containing carbon disulfide

✓ Minimize the transfer of asbestos in reservoir sediment to the surface water

Benefits of Preferred Alternative

✓ The existing cap eliminates exposure to contaminated materials and prevents or minimizes the possibility of disturbing them.

✓ Future use restrictions will assure that the integrity of the cap will be protected.

✓ Any proposed uses will be reviewed and approved by EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

✓ Long-term maintenance and monitoring plans will ensure the cap remains protective.

EPA's Nine Criteria Analysis

Before EPA can select a final cleanup option, each option is evaluated using the following nine criteria:

1. Overall Protectiveness of Human Health and the Environment

2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements

3. Long-term Effectiveness

4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment

5. Short-Term Effectiveness

6. Implementability

7. Cost

8. State Acceptance

9. Community Acceptance

These nine criteria are used to evaluate the different options individually and against each other in order to select a remedy. At this point, EPA has fully evaluated the first seven of the nine criteria as summarized in the Evaluation of Alternatives section of the PRAP.

Only after considering input from **state officials** and the **community** regarding the preferred alternative, will EPA make a final decision.

For more information about how the nine criteria are evaluated, please go to http://go.usa.gov/xWKFW

Benefits of Preferred Alternative (cont'd)

✓ The preferred alternative is cost effective, can be implemented quickly, and will not negatively affect floodplains.

✓ Implementing the preferred alternative will not increase traffic in the fence-line community or disturb contaminated materials which could pose increased risks to human health or the environment.

EPA Work Completed to Date

It's important to note that, since December 2008, EPA has completed extensive work at the BoRit site to address the immediate need to minimize risk from asbestos-containing materials and to stabilize the streambanks. This work compliments the long-term goals that EPA is proposing in the PRAP. Work completed to date includes:

✓ Stream banks bordering waste disposal areas were armored and a portion of Tannery Run was routed through pipe to prevent erosion from the creek flow. This will prevent or minimize future contamination of the waterways from the stream banks and sediment and protect floodplain soils.

✓ The cap on the stream banks includes 10 to 15 inches of clean fill and a layer of topsoil and vegetation, as well as cabled concrete mats, geocells, and erosion control mats, wherever warranted.

✓ The slopes of the Pile were regraded for stability, and the Pile and the Reservoir berm were covered with geotextile fabric at least 2 feet of clean material, and approximately 6 inches of topsoil to support plant growth. In certain areas, the Reservoir berm includes up to 10 feet of soil cover.

✓ The Reservoir was emptied. Its bottom was covered with geotextile fabric and a minimum of 2 feet of clean material, and it was refilled. A clay-impregnated liner was added to strengthen unstable portions of the berm. Habitat areas were designed and constructed to support wildlife.

✓ On the Park parcel, some waste was consolidated into two waste cells, then covered with geotextile fabric, at least 2 feet of clean soil, and approximately 6 inches of topsoil and vegetation.

✓ Other areas of the Park parcel were also covered with geotextile fabric, 2 feet of clean material, and approximately 6 inches of topsoil and vegetation.

FIGURE 1: BoRit Asbestos Site Map

Your Role In The Process

The public is encouraged to review the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) and submit comments or concerns to the EPA. **To review the complete PRAP online, please visit:**

https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2238056

Comments on the PRAP may be submitted by postal mail, e-mail, or in person at the upcoming public meeting. (See meeting details on page 1). Mail comments postmarked no later than February 1**, 2017,** to: R3_Boritcomments@epa.gov

or to

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3 Office
1650 Arch Street (Mailcode 3HS21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Attn: Jill Lowe, RPM

Contact Us

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Jill Lowe
Remedial Project Manager
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lowe.jill@epa.gov

Resources

For more information about the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, please visit:
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/boritasbestos

For more information about EPA's Superfund Program: http://www.epa.gov/superfund

To review the entire Administrative Record for the Borit Site, go to:
https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR64805

Address Label Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Attn: Carrie Deitzel
1650 Arch Street (Mailcode 3HS52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY— REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE

Record of Decision (ROD) and Responsiveness Summary Completed

After considering input from the community and from the State, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the recommended cleanup option to address waste, soil and reservoir sediment at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, located in Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The cleanup remedy incorporates the work that has already been completed at the Site. This work includes covering the asbestos-containing wastes, soils, and reservoir sediments with geotextile, and a minimum of 2 feet of clean material. The remedy will also require post-construction sampling, routine inspections, long term operations and maintenance, and land-use controls.

The BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site ROD (and Responsiveness Summary with submitted comments) is available for review at: https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/03/2244733

Or visit:
BoRit Information Repository
Wissahickon Valley Library
Ambler Branch
209 Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002

Please Contact Us!

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Gregory Voigt
Remedial Project Manager
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Voigt.gregory@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/superfund/boritasbestos

Appendix F - Additional Websites & Resource

EPA Site Profile Page for the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site:

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/boritasbestos

EPA's Environmental Concerns of Communities around Ambler, Pennsylvania Site

https://www.epa.gov/ambler

ATSDR ToxFAQS page:

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp

Superfund Community Involvement

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

This is Superfund:
A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program (PDF)

http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/HQ/175197

Last Updated: January 1, 2018