



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

**REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION III**

<b>Site Name:</b>	Ambler Groundwater VOC Plume		
<b>SEMS ID#:</b>	PAN000303846		
<b>DSN:</b>	PA-3718		
<b>Alias Site Names:</b>	NA		
<b>City:</b>	Ambler		
<b>County:</b>	Montgomery		
<b>State:</b>	PA		
<b>Refer to Report Dated:</b>	October, 2016		
<b>Report Type:</b>	Final Trip Report		
<b>Report developed by:</b>	Weston Solutions		
<b>Site Decision Made by:</b>	Christopher Vallone	<b>Date:</b>	11/15/2016

**DECISION: N – NFRAP No Further Remedial Action Planned**

- 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under SEMS (Superfund) is not required because:**
  - N - NFRAP No Further Remedial Action Planned
  - A - Addressed as part of an existing NPL site (site will be entered if this is selected)
  - D - Deferred to RCRA
  - B - Addressed as part of another non-NPL site
  - W - Referred to Removal, no further Remedial Assessment
  - DN - Deferred to NRC
  - SA - Recommended as a SF Alternative Site
  - OCA - Other Cleanup Activity: Fed Fac (FF) Private Party Lead (PP) State Lead (OS)
- 2. Further Assessment Needed Under SEMS:**
  - H - Higher Priority for further assessment
  - L - Lower priority for further assessment
  - G - Recommended for HRS Scoring
  - F - Referred to Removal, Needs further Remedial Assessment

## **DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:**

### ***Site History***

The Ambler Groundwater Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Plume is a groundwater plume in Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The groundwater plume was detected as part of on-going remedial investigations for the BoRit National Priorities List (NPL) site in 2013. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the BoRit site in known disposal areas as well as upgradient of the disposal areas to assess groundwater quality.

The offsite monitoring well, MW-07, is an upgradient monitoring well and analysis of groundwater collected from that well showed concentrations of tetrachloroethene (PCE) at 270 parts per billion (ppb) and trichloroethylene (TCE) at 12 ppb. PCE and TCE were also detected in one downgradient well, MW-02 with concentrations of PCE at 37 ppb and TCE at 1.7 ppb.

The Ambler Groundwater VOC Plume site is located in a residential area with some commercial and light industrial facilities located within 1 mile.

### ***Environmental History***

As part of the investigation to determine a source of the PCE in groundwater, WESTON Solutions (WESTON) reviewed environmental databases, historical Sanborn maps, and City Directories. The objective of this investigation was to gather available analytical data and historical information in an effort to determine the source of the VOCs detected at the BoRit site, particularly in the upgradient monitoring well MW-07. The property immediately north of MW-07 is currently and has historically been occupied by several automotive repair facilities that are listed as Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) small-quantity generators for solvents.

Gessner Products is a manufacturer of melamine container products located 0.1 miles north (upgradient) of MW-07 and does not use VOCs in their manufacturing process. VOCs reportedly have been detected in effluent discharge samples associated with Gessner Products and the presence of VOCs in its non-contact discharge water is believed to be a result of the intake of contaminated groundwater in the production wells at the facility.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, WESTON collected two groundwater samples and one effluent sample from the Gessner Products manufacturing facility located north and upgradient of the BoRit site and MW-07. The groundwater samples were collected from two on-site production wells, the North well and the South well. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collected groundwater samples from four monitoring wells at the BoRit site and a sample from the upgradient monitoring well, MW-07. All of the groundwater samples collected from June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> were analyzed for VOCs.

Groundwater analytical results show MW-07 contained PCE at 200 ppb and TCE at 24 ppb, MW-02 contained PCE at 27 ppb and TCE at 1.7 ppb. Gessner Product's South production well contained PCE at 14 ppb and TCE at 1.1 ppb. In addition, the effluent sample collected at the Gessner Products facility contained concentrations of PCE at 5.7 ppb. The June 2016 sampling confirmed the presence of chlorinated solvents in the groundwater at the site.

### ***Pathways and Exposure***

Groundwater Migration Pathway – Groundwater for residences and businesses within a four-mile radius area is supplied from a municipal water supply; therefore, the probability of adverse impact to drinking water is not expected. Groundwater migration is not expected to be a pathway of concern for the site.

Surface Water Pathway – There are no surface water features on the property. The closest surface water feature is an intermittent tributary named Tannery Run and Rose Valley Creek, which is located south of the BoRit site. Both surface water bodies eventually join the Wissahickon Creek.

Soil Exposure Pathway - The ground surfaces surrounding the Ambler Groundwater VOC plume include a vacant lot with grass, pavement sidewalks, asphalt streets, and a portion of the BoRit Site. There is nothing that suggests that soil is a pathway of concern at this site.

Air Exposure Pathway - The air exposure pathway was not evaluated as part of this investigation because it is not expected to be a pathway of concern.

When evaluating sites for the NPL, data and historical information is gathered and used in a scoring system known as the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS is the primary screening tool for determining whether a site is to be included on the NPL. An HRS score for a site is determined by evaluating the four pathways discussed above. Information and available data for the Ambler Groundwater Plume suggest at this time the site would not score high enough to be considered for listing on the NPL.

### ***Decision***

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that no further remedial action by the Federal Superfund program is warranted at the referenced site, at this time. A no further remedial action planned (NFRAP) designation means that no additional remedial steps under the Federal Superfund program will be taken at the site unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the site are disclosed. The basis for the NFRAP determination is provided below. Site data suggests that contamination is coming from a source upgradient of Borit. However, since there are no affected drinking water wells, there are not enough receptors in the area for the site to qualify for and be considered for listing on the NPL. Additional site characterization by EPA to try to locate the source would not affect the NPL qualification status and therefore is not recommended at this time. In accordance with EPA's decision regarding the tracking of NFRAP sites, the referenced site may be removed from EPA's Active site inventory and placed in a separate Archive site inventory as an historical record if no further Superfund interest is warranted. Archived sites may be returned to the Active site inventory if new information necessitating further Superfund consideration is discovered.