

POLREP # 83

BoRit Asbestos NPL Site

Ambler, PA 19002

Event: CERCLA Response Activities

ATTN: Region III RRC

I. Situation (From December 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013)

- A. In April 2006, EPA Site Assessment group conducted a baseline sampling event at the BoRit Asbestos Pile Site (Site). The Site is located along West Maple Street and Chestnut Avenue in Ambler, PA, and is in the vicinity of the Ambler Asbestos National Priority List (NPL) Site. The Site consists of a waste pile, the bordering reservoir, the Whitpain Wissahickon Park, and the adjacent banks of the Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek, and Tannery Run. Results from the sampling event showed the presence of asbestos in the air, soil, surface water, and sediments. Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are easily seen throughout the entire Site.
- B. The release meets the criteria for conducting a Removal Action under Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). An EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) determined that immediate funds are needed to mitigate the threat posed to human health and the environment. The OSC authorized a budget for the Removal Action not to exceed \$250,000, in accordance with EPA re-delegation of authority 14-2.
- C. On August 14, 2006, the EPA OSC prepared a Special Bulletin A documenting the scope of work needed to start a Removal Action at the Site to protect human health and the environment.
- D. A total of eight rounds of air sampling were conducted from October 2006 through September 2007. There were eight air sampling locations along the perimeter of the Site (locations varied with daily wind direction), five fixed locations in the community and a remote location in the nearby town to be used as a background or reference sample. During some of the rounds, activity-based sampling (ABS) was conducted (EPA contractors, with personal air pumps on them, conducted different tasks – walking, raking, soil sampling).
- E. Based on the sampling results from October 2006 through September 2007, EPA concluded that the residents in the vicinity of the BoRit Site are not being currently exposed to asbestos fibers from the Site at levels that pose an unacceptable or significant health risk.
- F. On July 7, 2008, a kick-off meeting was held at the site. EPA, Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START), and Emergency and Rapid

Response Services (ERRS) personnel were present on-site. EPA discussed design aspects with START and site working logistics with ERRS.

- G. On April 8, 2009, EPA announced the addition of the BoRit Asbestos Site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).
- H. On July 1, 2010, Weston Solutions, Inc. assumed the role as START for BoRit Asbestos NPL Site.
- I. As of December 31, 2013, approximately 8,331 truck-loads (approximately 124,965 yd³) of clean fill have been delivered to the site.
- J. As of November 19, 2013, 224 roll-off containers of ACM, with a combined weight of approximately 2,496 tons, have been disposed of at the landfill.
- K. As of December 31, 2013, we have been pumped, treated and discharged approximately 995,300 gallons of water from the pond into the Wissahickon Creek. Effluent sampling was conducted as per PADEP permit requirements. To date, there have been no results which exceed limits set by the permit.
- L. As of December 12, 2013, we have spent approximately \$16,358,458 (Removal contractors' money only – time and material).
- M. For more information, see previous POLREPs.

II. Action Taken

- A. December 2, 2013: Delivery of sand filters and piping for pond dewatering treatment system.
- B. December 3, 2013: Continued to cover east waste cell in park area. Installation of electrical components and piping for reservoir treatment system. Delivery of insulation to site for reservoir treatment system.
- C. December 4, 2013: Dug a trench for the pipes of the dewatering system, under Reservoir Road. Began installation of electrical components, heat trace, heat tape and insulation for dewatering system. Continued grading and compacting of clean fill in the park area.
- D. December 5, 2013: Began installation of insulation, aluminum tape and poly wrap on the pipes of the dewatering system.
- E. December 19, 2013: Finished installation of heat trace and insulation for sand filter, bag filters, and cartridge filters. Began pumping operations with effluent running back into reservoir, as per permit requirements. Collected samples at four locations along the system (after frac tank, after 10 micron filter, after 5 micron filter, and effluent) for analysis.

- F. December 23, 2013: Began dewatering of the pond. Collected discharge samples, as per the NPDES permit.
- G. December 26, 2013: Continued dewatering the pond. Collected discharge samples, as per PADEP permit.
- H. December 30, 2013: Continued dewatering the pond. Collected discharge samples, as per PADEP permit.

III. Future Actions

- A. Continue dewatering the pond and collecting discharge samples, as per PADEP permit.

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