

# BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE



BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

December 2016

## 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 1, next page).

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 "Your Role...", next page.

## 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.

## 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'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>

## 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 details, previous page). 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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## 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>