



Facts About...

68th Street Dump/Industrial Enterprises (Proposed National Priorities List Site)

Site Location

68th Street Dump/Industrial Enterprises is located near the town of Rosedale in Baltimore County, Maryland. The site comprises four separate Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) sites: 68th Street Dump (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises (MD-184), Colgate Pay Dump (MD-176), and R.M. Winstead (MD-133). These CERCLIS sites have been combined based upon common operations and operators. The site covers a total area of approximately 240 acres. The approximate boundaries of the site are Chessie Systems Express Transportation (CSXT [formerly Baltimore and Ohio]) rail lines to the north, Redhouse Run and Back River to the east, a combination of Herring Run and Pennsylvania Railroad rail lines to the south, and where CSXT rail lines cross Herring Run to the west.

The site is composed primarily of wooded and open land that has been extensively modified by landfilling operations. Located within the boundaries of the complex are Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc., an auto repair shop, and Baltimore County's Redhouse Run pumping station and sewer pipeline.

There are six surface water bodies that flow through the site. Herring Run flows eastward through the site and empties into the headwaters of the Back River, a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. Moore's Run and an unnamed stream flow eastward, Redhouse Run flows southward, and two unnamed streams flow northward through the site and empty into the on-site portions of the Herring Run. One of the unnamed streams originates from an on-site pond located in the northern portion of the site.

Access to the site is unrestricted and trespassers are common. Unauthorized burning and nuisance dumping continue at the site.

Site History

The 68th Street Dump Site was the location of a number of permitted and non-permitted landfills that operated from the late 1940s to the late 1970s. These landfills accepted various types and quantities of industrial, commercial, and municipal wastes, including: solvents, paints, flammable liquids, fly ash, automobile tires, and 55-gallon drums containing heavy metal sludges produced by electroplating processes. Other operations at the site included dumping waste oils and other unidentified wastes into open lagoons, salvaging metal and cardboard containers, incinerating refuse, and spreading uncooled incinerator ash from the Baltimore City incinerator.

Inspection reports noted numerous problems associated with the site, including inadequate cover of refuse, uncontrolled fires, nuisance odors, improper disposal of drums and other salvageable materials, and



migration of oil and refuse into Herring Run and Moore's Run. In 1969, the Baltimore County Health Department obtained a court order to end landfill operations. Available information, however, indicates that as late as 1978, wastes from a metal finishing company in Pennsylvania may have been transported to the site.

Environmental Investigation and Action

There have been three removal actions completed at the site. In 1979, inspectors from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Water Resources Administration (WRA) discovered buried drums containing a grayish-green powdery sludge material along the western site property boundary, immediately east of the Baltimore Galvanizing Company (BGC) property. This discovery occurred while a local excavating company was filling, grading, and leveling the ground in this area. Samples of the drummed material revealed potentially hazardous concentrations of heavy metals. A lengthy legal dispute ensued between WRA, the site property owner, and BGC. As a result of the legal dispute, the Baltimore County Circuit Court ordered the site property owner and BGC to excavate and properly dispose of the drums and associated material. In 1982, approximately 23 drums, some of which were badly deteriorated, were excavated and transported off-site for proper disposal. More than half of the drums contained the grayish-green powdery sludge material. The remaining drums were empty.

The second removal action was completed in 1984 after personnel from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waste Management Administration (WAS) discovered ten 55-gallon drums protruding from a hillside on the portion of the site that is now being leased to the Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc. This discovery occurred while WAS personnel were conducting a photographic survey of the site. At the request of WAS, the owner of the site excavated and transported these drums off-site for proper disposal. Sampling of the drums prior to their removal revealed that one drum contained paint sludge and the rest were empty.

The last removal action was completed in 1985 after a fire occurred on the "island area" portion of the site. Air samples collected by WAS personnel during the fire revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). After the fire was extinguished, over forty 55-gallon drums were discovered protruding from the surface in this area. At the request of WAS, the owner of the site excavated and transported these drums off-site for proper disposal. The "island area" was subsequently covered with two feet of soil, capped with a sewage sludge/soil mixture, and vegetated.

In 1985, two Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Preliminary Assessments were completed at the site. CERCLA Site Inspections were completed at the site in 1986 and 1989. In 1992, a CERCLA Level I Site Inspection Prioritization was completed at the site. In 1995, a CERCLA Phase I Expanded Site Inspection was completed at the site. These studies indicated the detection of elevated levels of semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and heavy metals in on-site soils, elevated levels of SVOCs, PCBs, and heavy metals in on-site sediments, and elevated levels of heavy metals in on-site surface water.

Only one potable water supply well exists at the site. The Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc. and an auto repair shop use this well for non-potable purposes. This 125-foot deep well was last sampled for metals in July 1997. Sample results at that time indicated that thallium was detected at 12 parts per billion (ppb),



above the 2 ppb Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for that contaminant in drinking water. There were no other metals that exceeded their MCL in that sample. The last time this well was sampled for VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides, and PCBs was in June 1993. Sample results at that time indicated that this well was free of organic and inorganic contaminants. The vast majority of the residents within a four-mile radius of the site obtain their drinking water from Baltimore municipal water systems. There are, however, a few residential wells located less than a mile from the site. These wells were last sampled in July 1998. Sample results at that time indicated that the site had not adversely impacted these residential wells.

68th Street Dump/Industrial Enterprises was proposed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) on January 19, 1999. During the public comment period, EPA received extensive comments from one of the original operators and from current property owners at the site. As a result of the questions raised, EPA conducted an extensive sampling event at the site in April and May 2000 to re-evaluate their decision to propose the site to the NPL. EPA re-proposed the site to the NPL on April 30, 2003.

Current Status

The EPA is moving forward to address 68th Street Dump/Industrial Enterprises as a Superfund Alternative Site (SAS) rather than as an NPL site. In the SAS process, Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) enter into an agreement that commits them to clean up the site in the same manner as if it were listed on the NPL. The SAS process allows portions of the site to be remediated and redeveloped in order to generate funds for the overall project.

Planned or Potential Future Action

A workplan for a Focused Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is being developed by the PRP contractor. The EPA and MDE have reviewed a Data Gap Analysis, which will support the RI/FS workplan.

Facility Contacts

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