

MD-081
Anne Arundel County

In March 1981, DHMH personnel discovered approximately 40 drums and four dumpsters of solvents and marine paint sludge.

In October 1982, EPA's FIT conducted a site inspection that detected heavy metal and cyanide contamination in soil and surface water samples.

In December 1982, the site was added to the NPL.

In June 1983, emergency removal activities began and were completed in December 1983.

The March 1986 ROD called for no further remedial action and the site was deleted from the NPL in April 1988.

In 1993 and 1994, MDE sampled on-site groundwater monitoring wells. Analysis of the samples failed to detect contamination above MCLs.

Middletown Road Dump
Annapolis, Maryland

Site Location

The 15-acre former dump site is located off Middletown Road in Annapolis, Maryland. The site is situated in a mixed residential/rural area. Single homes are located along Middletown Road, a housing development and a trailer park are located to the north. Woodlands are located to the south and east the property. An unnamed tributary of Whitehall Creek is situated along the northeastern portion of the site. The unnamed tributary flows to the east for approximately one-mile before emptying into Whitehall Creek, which flows south for approximately two miles before discharging into the Chesapeake Bay. Groundwater flow at the site is to the southeast.

Site History

Prior to 1981, Mr. Dale Dickerson, the property owner, utilized the site as an unpermitted dump. Construction debris, rubble and some industrial and municipal wastes were accepted at the site. Currently, the landowner operates a firewood business that occupies a small portion of the western and southwestern sections of the property.

Environmental Investigations

In March 1981, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) personnel conducted an inspection of the site in response to information regarding possible illegal dumping. Approximately 40 drums and four dumpsters of solvents and marine paint sludge were discovered. Samples collected revealed the waste was heavily contaminated with benzene, toluene, xylene, zinc, lead and chromium.

In October 1982, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted a site inspection, and further sampling detected high levels of chromium, lead, arsenic, and cyanide in soil and surface water runoff samples. The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1982.

In May 1983, the NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection under contract with EPA. The report researched site background, provided a quality assurance review and toxicological evaluation of the FIT sampling event from October 1982. The toxicological evaluation recommended removal of the drums and soil surrounding the drum pile. Since site access was virtually unrestricted and the site was located near a residential area utilizing domestic wells, EPA and the State of Maryland initiated emergency removal activities. The removal operation was completed in December 1983.

Approximately 350 cubic yards of soil, six overpacked 55-gallons drums of various solvents and thinners, 150 crushed 55-gallon drums, 275 five-gallon containers, and approximately one million tires were removed from the site.

In February 1985, DHMH completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) in which groundwater, surface water, soil and air samples were collected. No contamination at levels higher than the surrounding area was detected. The report recommended no need for further source control or off-site actions.

In March 1986, EPA's Record of Decision (ROD) called for no further remedial action at this site as the RI confirmed that the emergency removal action was complete and the site no longer posed a threat to human health or the environment. As a result, the site was removed from the NPL on April 18, 1988.

In 1992, MDE conducted groundwater sampling from the on-site monitoring wells in response to directives specified in the ROD. The groundwater sampling detected levels of arsenic and chromium slightly above Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Subsequent groundwater sampling in 1993 and 1994 failed to detect contamination above MCLs.

In June 1995, a letter to EPA by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) sought approval to seal and abandon the three remaining viable monitoring wells on site as prior analytical data failed to reveal evidence of further contamination at the site. This issue remains unresolved.

Current Status

For the Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, the MDE is conducting a site survey of the Middletown Road Dump. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA or no further action to be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

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