



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: BUCKS STEEL DRUM (MD-187)

Site Location

The former Bucks Steel Drum site consists of two flat and heavily vegetated 100 feet by 370 feet parcels (lots 12 and 13 on Baltimore County tax map 97 parcel 282) located at 8234 Rosebank Avenue in Dundalk, Baltimore County, Maryland. The 1.698-acre site is located on the corner of Rosebank Avenue and Edgewater Place in a mixed residential and industrial section of easternmost Dundalk in Congressional District 2 and Legislative District 6. The Browning Ferris Inc. Back River Sewage Treatment Plant is situated along the northern side of the tidal flat. Edgewater Place bounds the site to the northeast and is lined by residential single homes with Back River situated further to the east. Rosebank Avenue forms the southeastern boundary with Maryland Plating Services directly across the street from the site. More single home residences are situated adjacent to the site to the southwest.

Site History

The former Bucks Steel Drum site was discovered and placed on the Emergency and Remedial Response Information System in November 1979. The site was used as a drum storage area for the Baltimore Steel Drum Company (MD-051) located at 910 Kresson Street in Baltimore City. Available files indicate that 3,000-4,000 drums of coal tar were stored on site and the Department of Natural Resources' Water Resources Administration (WRA) had the drums removed sometime in 1979 or 1980.

Environmental Investigations

WRA personnel visited the site in November 1984 during general surveillance. Reconnaissance of the site identified three storage trailers and one office trailer on site that were extensively vandalized. Most of the site was overgrown with vegetation, and various building construction materials, scaffolding and other debris was scattered about the site.

In December 1984, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Environmental Programs' Waste Management Administration completed a draft Preliminary Assessment (PA) that further documented the same site conditions as noted above. According to an interview with the owner of the site, a subcontractor left the materials remaining on the site.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.state.md.us
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Anderson/Land Restoration Program/February/2013

Since the drums were removed from the site in 1979 or 1980 and later site visits failed to identify hazardous wastes on site or any immediate threats to human health or the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed the site as “No Further Remedial Action Planned” in March 1985. The final draft of the PA was completed in June 1985.

In August 2007, MDE completed a Site Inspection (SI). Results of this investigation identified elevated levels of inorganics (metals) and trichloroethene (TCE) in the groundwater samples above Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency benchmark values, elevated levels of inorganic and organic contamination were identified in the soil samples at levels above MDE and EPA benchmark values, elevated levels of copper were identified in the surface water samples and elevated levels of nickel and zinc were identified in the sediment. As part of the SI, MDE conducted a Toxicological Evaluation utilizing a residential use scenario. The Toxicological Evaluation identified elevated risks to all populations evaluated from ingestion of the groundwater and a slightly elevated level of risk to the child resident population that may ingest the soils on site. Since any future development of the site will be served by municipal water supply, risks associated with ingestion of the groundwater would be eliminated, and using the 95 percent Upper Confidence Level concentration average of arsenic in soil, the risk to the child resident population of ingesting soil is within the acceptable risk range established by EPA.

Current Status

MDE has determined that no further requirements for the investigation of hazardous wastes are needed at this site at this time and recommends that this site be moved to the list of “Formerly Investigated Sites.” MDE does reserve the right to require additional investigation if previously undiscovered or exacerbated levels of contamination are discovered.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.state.md.us
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Anderson/Land Restoration Program/February/2013