



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY (MD-132)

Site Location And Ownership

The Vulcan Materials Company site, also known as AMG Resources, is located at 2415 Grays Road in the Edgemere area of Baltimore County, Maryland. The Site is identified on Baltimore County Tax Map 111 as Parcels 174 and 327, and has been owned by AMG Resources Corporation since March 1988, when it was purchased from the Vulcan Materials Company. The site is bounded to the north and east by light industrial manufacturing facilities and to the west and south by Grays Road, beyond which lays a golf course to the west, and a warehouse facility and train tracks to the south.

Site History And Operations

The site has operated as a tin recovery and repurposing facility from at least as far back as 1962, up to the present. Processes that are currently performed, or are known to have historically been performed at the site include de-tinning of tinplate scrap, re-baling of steel cans from material recovery facilities (MRFs), and shearing/resizing of steel scrap. Hazardous waste is generated from the de-tinning process in the form of caustic solution, which contains elevated lead content and is stored in a 20,000-gallon aboveground storage tank for reuse in the de-tinning process. Approximately four gallons of caustic solution per gross ton of scrap processed is discarded in order to prevent unacceptable concentrations of impurities or contaminants in the recovered product. The de-tinning process also generates non-hazardous de-tinning mud, which is stored in an on-site lagoon. Historically, the mud was also stored in a second lagoon, which was closed out in 1966. When economically feasible, some of the de-tinning mud is sold for secondary recovery of the mud's tin content.

Site Investigations

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) began investigating environmental conditions at the property in 1981 after the Site ownership notified the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of a potential release of waste caustic solution to the environment from an unlined de-tinning mud storage lagoon. DHMH noted numerous housekeeping concerns at the site, most notably regarding small spills and leaks of caustic solution from railroad cars during the baling and loading processes. DHMH recommended corrective action. In response, Vulcan Materials installed a waste caustic collection, containment, and recycling system to address



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DHMH's concerns. Seven groundwater wells were also rehabilitated and sampled as part of this investigation. Lead, chromium, and zinc were all found at elevated concentrations in groundwater, but were determined to not pose a direct threat to human health because of the primarily industrial land use in the immediate vicinity and the use of a municipal potable water source in the surrounding area. The investigation was concluded and reported in 1985.

Under EPA contract, NUS Corporation (NUS) prepared a site inspection report for the Vulcan Materials Property in April 1990. NUS noted that, based on a past agreement with DHMH, the site owners and operators continued to sample the de-tinning mud lagoon and on-site monitoring well network annually. NUS noted that a groundwater sample collected from the site in 1989 contained an elevated lead concentration, but, as with the case of the 1985 elevated metal concentrations, were not anticipated to pose a risk to human health at the site or in the surrounding area. No further action or investigation was recommended.

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division (HWED) performed a compliance evaluation inspection at the site in May 2006. No compliance violations were noted in the inspection report, except that the spent caustic solution tank was not labeled to indicate that it contained a regulated hazardous waste. The site operator was instructed to label the tank accordingly and to provide HWED with proof of compliance.

Current Site Status

The case file for the Vulcan Materials site was revisited by MDE Controlled Hazardous Substance (CHS) Enforcement Division in March and April 2012. Based on the observations and data presented in the prior site investigation and inspection reports, as well as the lack of immediate risk to human health or the environment in the vicinity of the site, the CHS Enforcement Division recommended that the site listing be transferred to the "formerly investigated sites" section of the State Master List. No further regulatory action or investigation is warranted regarding Vulcan Materials at the present time.

