

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS - BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Maryland

Site Location

The Sherwin-Williams Company, Baltimore facility is located at 2325 Hollins Ferry Road, Baltimore, Maryland. The site is bounded on the northwest by Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks and on the northeast by Western Maryland railroad tracks. Residential apartment housing adjoins the east side of the facility and light industrial and commercial areas adjoin the south side. The 23-acre site is about ½ mile west-northwest of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The facility consists of parking lots, a main office building, production line and packaging buildings, storage tanks and warehouses for raw materials, shipping warehouses for finished products and waste storage areas.

Site History

Before 1946, the site area was undeveloped and mainly used for agriculture. In 1946, Sophie Shuger et al. purchased the site and constructed the Baltimore Paint and Color Works. The company manufactured paints and paint type coatings. Production of similar products has continued through the years even though the line of products may have expanded or contracted according to market conditions. In 1975, the Baltimore Paint and Chemical Corporation merged into and became Elt, Inc. Elt, Inc. changed its name to Dutch Boy, Inc. in 1977 and this company subsequently sold the land and it's building to the Sherwin-Williams Company in August 1980.

The Sherwin Williams Company maintains three permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The company has an Air Management Administrative Construction Permit owing to the use of liquid and powder type compounds, a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for discharge of cooling water to Gwynns Falls and ultimately to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, and an Oil Control Operation Permit owing to the use of oil in boilers.

Environmental Investigations

An extensive history of spills, cleanups and remedial actions and proposals exists for the Sherwin-Williams Baltimore facility. These incidents have generally related to leaking lines and tanks, tank overflows, cleaning of tanks, broken hoses, couplings disconnecting during use, dropped and broken containers, rusted containers and damaged seals.

The property came to the attention of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as having possible groundwater contamination when an inspector noted occasional changes in the color of a stream coincident with discharges from the site. As a result of the observations, Sherwin-Williams installed and sampled five monitoring wells in June 1985. Volatile organic compounds, lead and chromium were detected, although lead and chromium were not detected in 1987 samples. Seven additional wells were installed at the site in 1988.

In August 1987, Sherwin-Williams and the MDE's Waste Management Administration negotiated a Consent Order (CO-87-102) in which the company agreed, among other conditions, to perform semi-annual monitoring for three years.

In early 1988, a 10,000-gallon tank containing water contaminated with xylenes failed and spilled its contents into the surrounding diked area. The liquid flowed through a small breach in the dike to the ground. To evaluate the severity of the spill, five trenches 15 feet by 2 feet by 6-feet deep were excavated around the area to contain shallow groundwater infiltration, seeps and surface runoff. The collected water was sampled periodically for xylenes.

In November 1988, the new wells and four existing wells were sampled. Trichloroethane (TCA) was detected at a concentration of 17,000 parts per billion in one of the new wells that was downgradient from an underground storage tank that had contained TCA and been removed in 1986. Sherwin-Williams elected to remove the TCA-contaminated soil rather than treat it in place. As part of the remediation of the area, fifty-eight (30-ton) truckloads, or approximately 1,000 cubic yards, of contaminated material were excavated and removed by Envirosafe for disposal at an Ohio disposal facility. A recovery well with infiltration gallery radial collectors was also installed.

In September 1989, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration prepared an *Environmental Priorities Initiative/Preliminary Assessment* report of the Sherwin-Williams Baltimore facility, and recommended No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) for the facility under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. Investigation of environmental releases at the site has continued under oversight of the MDE's Hazardous Waste Program.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of NFRAP. The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that the MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Contact

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