

VALE SUMMIT LANDFILL I
Frostburg, Maryland
(MD-005)

Site Location

The inactive 35-acre Vale Summit Landfill I is located in a former coal strip mine off Haul Road, approximately 0.25 mile from its intersection with Maryland Route 36 in Allegany County. Vale Summit Landfill I is separate from Vale Summit Landfill II, which is located west of and adjacent to this site.

The area surrounding the site is rural, partially wooded with small residential areas in the towns of Vale Summit and Borden Shaft. The closest house is approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the site near the intersection of Maryland Routes 36 and 55.

Site History

The landfilling operations at Vale Summit Landfill I started in 1971 on the northern section of the property and continued until 1976 when the lowest elevation area of the property was filled. The southern part of the property was filled between 1980 and 1984. The landfill received both municipal and industrial wastes. Records do not exist on the type or quantity of wastes disposed of at the landfill. During its operational period, Allegany County leased the land from the Maryland Coal and Realty Company. This firm still owns the property under the name of Allegany Coal and Land Company. The landfill permit holder is Allegany County Commissioners. Ownership history of the site prior to Allegany Coal and Land Company is unknown.

Some of the companies that are thought to have disposed of wastes at the site include the Hercules Corporation, Celanese Corporation (Amcelle Plant), PPG Industries and the Kelly-Springfield Tire Company. Wastes deposited at the site may have included asbestos, rubber, wood pulp waste and a variety of organic compounds including amides, amines, plasticizers, catalysts, resins, acrylates, latex emulsions and sludge. According to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) files, the sludge deposited at this landfill included zinc chromate, cadmium, copper, manganese and magnesium. Additionally, the landfill accepted municipal wastes from Allegany County.

Records from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene indicate numerous problems at this landfill between 1973 and 1976. These problems included: poor drainage, inadequate waste compaction, daily cover and pest control, illegal dumping, fires, diversion ditches in poor condition, leachate contaminating Vale Run, insufficient equipment maintenance, wind blown trash, odors and unsanitary employee facilities.

Remedial actions at this site were performed between 1980 and 1995. Five monitoring wells were installed in 1980. Additionally, a 3 to 15-foot thick soil cover and a ventilation system for controlling methane gas emanation out of the landfill were completed by 1995.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

In 1980, Ecology and Environment, Inc. completed a Site Inspection of Vale Summit Landfill I. The analytical results on samples collected at the site indicated arsenic at a concentration

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of 26.3 parts per million (ppm) in soil samples. Groundwater from monitoring wells included vinyl chloride (27 parts per billion [ppb]), nickel (241 ppb) and lead (78 ppb).

MDE performed a *Level III Site Inspection Prioritization* in 1992. Soil samples revealed beryllium (2.1 ppm) and cyanide (1.0 ppm), exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk Based Concentration (RBC) levels for a residential scenario. No significant inorganic concentration was encountered in surface water and sediment samples. Groundwater from on-site monitoring wells revealed inorganics at concentrations below the RBC levels.

In 1994, MDE completed a *Phase I Expanded Site Inspection of the Vale Summit Landfill I Site*. Samples collected from soil, surface water and sediments revealed concentrations that do not pose a threat to human health and the environment.

Current Status

The *Site Survey of Vale Summit Landfill I Site*, completed by MDE in 1999, concluded that MDE had further requirements for the investigation of hazardous waste at the site. Additional investigations were requested to determine if site conditions have remained stable and whether any potential impact of contamination from the site to groundwater and surface water from the former landfill operations might exist.

Facility Contacts

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