

W.R. GRACE WASHINGTON RESEARCH CENTER (MD-117)
Columbia, Howard County, Maryland

Site Location

The Washington Research Center facility is located at 7379 Route 32, Columbia, in Howard County, Maryland. The site is located on the north side of Route 32 on a small plateau between two intermittent streams which flow into the Middle Branch of the Patuxent River. The facility's property consists of approximately 142 acres.

Site History

W.R. Grace and Company conducts laboratory research, develops new products, and makes improvements to existing products and processes in support of the company's specialty chemical business. The facility began operations in 1957. In 1982, Maryland Department of Health and Hygiene issued a hazardous waste storage permit for the storage of laboratory wastes.

Environmental Investigations

In 1987, NUS conducted an Site Investigation and found a release of metals and organic solvents to surface water from an old on-site landfill used by Grace to dispose of laboratory wastes from 1957 to 1969. In 1986, sampling indicated organic solvents in groundwater from the landfill. Subsequently, a consent order was issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to find the extent of contamination in 1987. In 1989, a second consent order was issued by MDE to pump and treat groundwater and build a soil gas vacuum extraction. In 1992, the site was deferred from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Program (CERCLA) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Program (RCRA) and issued a RCRA Corrective Action Permit.

Current Status

In 1992, MDE visited the site and completed a level I Site Investigation Prioritization report of the still active facility and recommended that the site be removed from CERCLA. The facility was deferred to EPA RCRA and was issued a RCRA Corrective Action Permit in 1992.

Facility Contact

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