MD-175
Baltimore County

In 1951, Baltimore County Department of Public Works purchased the property and operated a landfill on it until 1967.

In 1985, DHMH completed a Preliminary Assessment.

In 1986, NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection and found contamination from a variety of compounds.

In 1994, MDE completed an Expanded Site Inspection and did not detect significant contamination.

In December 1994, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

BATAVIA LANDFILL
Baltimore, Maryland

Site Description

The 30-acre Batavia Landfill is located along Batavia Farm Road approximately two miles east of Baltimore City near the Rosedale section of Baltimore County. A Baltimore Gas and Electric Company right-of-way for power lines separates the site from the Redland/Genstar Corporation to the east, which operates a quarrying and asphalt production facility. A defunct, illegal stainless steel slag recycling operation that existed for a few years in the late 1980s was situated southeast of the site. Batavia Farm Road borders the site to the north. Densely vegetated woodlands with scattered wetlands lies west of the site and to the north across Batavia Farm Road. Residential neighborhoods are located within one-quarter mile south of the property. A gate at the site entrance on Batavia Farm Road is the only access restriction.

Currently, the site is well maintained in the area of an existing model airplane hobbyists' airfield. An area of approximately five acres is accumulating clean fill from Baltimore County excavation projects for planned expansion of the existing airfield. Wetland vegetation is visible in several depressions over the site where runoff collects. Dense woodland vegetation is found throughout the remainder of the site.

Site History

T. Bernard Todd purchased the property from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Todd in 1920. In 1951, this once residential and farmland site was sold to Baltimore County for use as a landfill by the Department of Public Works. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) files indicate that the landfill operation accepted all refuse regardless of origin. However, it is believed that no industrial or chemical waste was dumped and more than 90% of the waste was residential and commercial refuse.

The trench method of disposal was utilized in which 40 feet wide by 20 feet deep ramped trenches are constructed and refuse is dumped by haulers into layers three to four feet thick. These layers are then compacted by heavy machinery to approximately two feet in depth and then covered by four to six inches of sandy loam soil. Complaints of leachate seepage from the walls of the fill occurred as early as 1961.

After landfill operations became inactive in 1967, the Baltimore County Department of Parks and Recreation assumed responsibility for maintenance of the site. A baseball diamond was constructed and later replaced by a model airplane hobbyists' airport.

In 1973, and again in 1977, Baltimore County authorities observed nuisance dumping, erosion problems and leachate seepage on site. The debris was removed and the vegetative cover established in the fall of 1977 successfully addressed the erosion problems.

The Baltimore County Department of Parks and Recreation had plans to grade the site, except for the wetland areas, for use as a small golf course and driving range. The current plans for the site are to expand the model airplane area to five or six acres, and to improve the existing parking area and access road. Clean fill is being brought to the site via Baltimore County dump trucks from excavation projects across the County. As the fill accumulates in piles, a bulldozer levels the area. After approximately one to three feet of fill has covered the planned expanded airfield, it will be seeded. Most of the remainder of the site, except wetland areas, will receive clean fill, be graded and revegetated.

Environmental Investigations

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) completed a Preliminary Assessment in 1985. Leachate seeps were not detected. Conditions at the time of the visit may have concealed their presence. The off-site discharge from a storm water pipe underneath the fill was discolored and foamy, but the origin of the discharge could not be linked to the landfill.

The NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection in July 1986. The report noted significant areas of distressed vegetation and area of approximately 100 feet in diameter that consisted of what appeared to be incinerator fly ash. Surface water, leachate seepage and sediment samples were collected. Elevated levels of volatiles, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and toluene were detected in on-site ponds. Aqueous and sediment samples revealed the presence of acetone, ethylbenzene, phthalates, benzo (b) fluoranthene, chromium, iron, lead, and mercury. The toxicological evaluation revealed that the level of contamination on site poses no apparent human health hazards.

In September 1994, the MDE completed an Expanded Site Inspection under contract with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess the actual and potential release of hazardous waste from the site. Samples of surface water, sediment, soil and residential wells were collected. Contamination of soils and wetlands on site consisted of PAHs and pesticides that were attributed to normal maintenance activities of the site. Two of the four wells sampled southeast of the site contained levels of lead above the Action Level of 15 parts per billion, but the source was thought to be attributable to the residential plumbing rather than site contamination. Manganese was detected above the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level in one of the wells, but the toxicological evaluation revealed only a slightly increased risk to children. No evidence of seepage from the landfill was observed.

Current Status

Under a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA Superfund Program, the MDE is conducting a site survey of the Batavia Landfill. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA, or no further action be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

Site Contact

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