Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT:
STANSBURY MILL ROAD
GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION
STANSBURY MILL ROAD GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION
STANSUBURY MILL ROAD, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
MDE CASE NO. 2009-0677-BA

SITE LOCATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) is investigating drinking water quality in private wells the vicinity of Stansbury Mill Road and Manor Road in Phoenix, Baltimore County, Maryland. The area is primarily residential.

SITE HISTORY

The MDE-OCP opened case number 2009-0677-BA on May 4, 2009 in response to the receipt of private well sampling results for 3712 Stansbury Mill Road. The results indicated methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) at a concentration of 14 parts per billion (ppb) in the sample. MTBE was a fuel additive commonly used to reduce carbon monoxide and ozone levels caused by auto emissions. There is no federal regulatory standard for MTBE in drinking water. In 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an advisory for MTBE of 20 to 40 ppb, based on taste and odor. Although the EPA has not established a regulated maximum contaminant level for MTBE, the MDE has adopted an action level of 20 ppb.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

In May 2009, a confirmatory drinking water sample collected by the MDE-OCP from the 3712 Stansbury Mill Road residence detected MTBE at 10.6 ppb. In sample collected in July 2009, MTBE was detected at 22 ppb at 3712 Stansbury Mill Road. Because this result exceeded the MDE Action Level of 20 ppb for MTBE, MDE financed the installation and maintenance of a granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system at the property. Based on these results, MDE began collecting drinking water samples at multiple other properties in the area to determine if other wells had been impacted. Since 2009, MDE has collected samples at a total of 33 properties, including 3712 Stansbury Mill Rd. None of the other 32 properties sampled since 2009 have had detections of MTBE above the State action level. At properties where MTBE was detected below the action level (12 properties total), MDE continued to collect samples regularly in order to monitor the drinking water quality and establish contaminant concentration trends.

Based on the potable well data collected during this groundwater investigation, the hydrogeologic features present in this area, and data collected as part of the investigation for the former Exxon Jacksonville station, located at 14258 Jarrettsville Pike (case number 2006-0303-BA2), the MDE-OCP does not consider the gasoline release at the former Exxon Jacksonville station to be the source of contamination detected in the vicinity of Stansbury Mill Road and Manor Road. To date, the source of the contamination in this case has not been determined.

CURRENT STATUS

Based on sampling results, MDE has ceased sampling at 10 of the 12 affected properties, including 3712 Stansbury Mill Road as of August 2020. Routine sampling to monitor low level MTBE detections continues at two remaining properties in the area.

FUTURE UPDATES

- Postings available on www.mde.maryland.gov
- File available at MDE-OCP headquarters in Baltimore.

CONTACTS

- Oil Control Program: (410) 537-3442 or (800) 633-6101 x3442
- Baltimore County Health Department: 410-887-2243

DISCLAIMER

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to the MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, the MDE recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by the MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.