



Facts About...

Maryland Assemblies
(MD-582)

Site Location

Maryland Assemblies (MDASM) is a roughly 65-acre property located north of Port Deposit, Cecil County, Maryland. The MDASM site is located in the 600 block of Dr. Jack Road on the north side of the road just west of its intersection with Burlin Road. The geographic coordinates of the site are 039° 38.1641' North and 076° 06.1468' West based on the geographic center of the property as depicted on the 7.5 minute Rising Sun quadrangle. The Maryland Grid coordinates are 1,052,800 East by 657,500 North and are based on the geographic center of the property as depicted on the ADC map for Cecil County.

Site History

The historic record for the property goes back to 1845 when Theodore S. Marshall transferred the property to Madison Rowland. The property has principally been residential agricultural since the 1800s. The property remained in individual/family ownership until it was purchased by Maryland Assemblies in 1957.

Maryland Assemblies operated on the property from 1957 through 1974. The parcel that once contained Maryland Assemblies was subdivided into several parcels as referenced in the sale to Stephen Porter in 1974. Powderidge, Inc. in 1980 again subdivided these parcels into 47 smaller parcels. Powderidge, Inc. developed the majority of the properties in the subdivision; transfer of the developed parcels ranged primarily from August 1980 through December 1981. The main thoroughfare for the community is Remington Court. Powderidge is a defunct corporation; the corporate charter, #D01004423, was forfeited prior to 2005.

MSASM began operation as a munitions manufacturing company prior to 1957. Throughout its operational history, the site was owned and operated by MDASM. The site closed its Maryland operation in 1974 and moved to Perry, Florida. In 1992, the Perry Florida operation was the site of a CERCLA emergency removal. The 68-acre site of the MDASM has been subdivided into numerous parcels and developed into a complex of single family homes.

Environmental Investigations

There are no records of environmental investigations of the MDASM site. Operation of the site ended shortly after the promulgation of modern environmental regulations.

Current Status

There is scant information available on the MDASM manufacturing site. The southern half of the MDASM property is the site of a housing development occupied by 49 single family homes. The northern half of the property was occupied by the MDASM munitions manufacturing facility. This northern property has been subdivided into two separate parcels.



The munitions and pyrotechnics industry uses a combination of explosives materials, heavy metals, metallic compounds and perchlorates in their products. Military ordnance and pyrotechnics manufacturers use various alcohols, ethers and chlorinated solvents in their manufacturing process. Volatile organic compounds are used to blanket explosive compounds, degrease munitions components and are themselves components of certain explosive compounds. Principal contaminants of concern will include heavy metals, nitro-aromatic compounds, perchlorates, volatile organic compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls.

Conclusions/Recommendations

Maryland Assemblies operated for 17 years at their Cecil County facility. The business operated during the years prior to wide scale regulation of hazardous materials. Several standard practices of the pyrotechnics industry have resulted in soil, ground water and/or indoor air contamination issues at sites throughout the county. Prior to regulation the standard practice was to burn plant waste in a burn pit or fire-hole. It was also standard practice to dispose of spent or waste chlorinated solvent on site.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center, historical air photographic study of the property detailed several bermed buildings and a disposal lagoon on the northern portion of the MDASM property. A Site Assessment that would include a munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) clearance, and the collection and analysis of soil and groundwater samples at the site to confirm the presence of MEC or other munitions industry wastes has been recommended by MDE.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at 410-537-3440.

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