



Facts About...

Rossville Coal Ash Structural Fill Site (Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Location

The Rossville Coal Ash Structural Fill site, which encompasses three separate parcels (3A, 3B and 3C) totaling approximately 32-acres, is located at 9114-9200 Yellow Brick Road, 9107-9201 Yellow Brick Road and west side of Lennings Lane in Rosedale, Baltimore County, Maryland 21237. The site is located in a mixed residential/commercial and light industrial use area and is bounded to the northwest by residential and commercial properties and interstate 95 beyond, to the south, west and east by residential, commercial and light industrial properties. Undeveloped land is located adjacent to the east and a CSX rail line and Pulaski Highway (Route 40) are located to the southeast. The closest surface water body is an unnamed tributary to Brien's Run located adjacent to the southern property boundary. Brien's Run discharges into Northeast Creek, which in turn discharges into Back River, approximately 2-miles southwest of the subject property. The topography slopes moderately across the site and surface elevation ranges between 140 feet mean sea level (msl) in the northwest to approximately 60 feet msl in the southeast. The groundwater table is located between 84 (NW) and 24 (SE) feet below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater is encountered in the Patuxent Formation in the northwest and in the Arundel Formation in the southeast portions of the property. All surface drainage is currently directed to a sedimentation basin located in the southeastern area of the site.

Site History

Portions of Lot 3 (current lots 3A, 3B and 3C) were privately owned until 1982, when they were acquired by Resource and Property Management, Inc (subsequently changed their name to Constellation Properties Inc.). A third portion of Lot 3 was acquired by the Baltimore Brick Company prior to 1940 and was eventually sold to Resource and Property Management, Inc. in 1982. In 1997, the property (all three lots) was sold to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and in 2001 transferred to Constellation Power Source Generation, Inc. (CPSG). Portions of the property may have been previously used for agricultural purposes prior to 1957. Between 1957 and 1971, the site appeared to have been overgrown with vegetation and was unoccupied. Between 1971 and 1979, the Baltimore Brick company mined clay on-site from the Arundel Formation. BGE purchased the property in 1982 and received a 397 permit, which allowed reclamation of the former clay mine using coal fly ash structural fill collected from the combustion byproduct of burning coal. Between June 1983 and October 2007, the site had been reclaimed with fly ash collected from the C. P. Crane, Brandon Shores and H.A. Wagner power production facilities. Between 1983 and 1995, fly ash was transported to the site from the C.P. Crane facility, which had obtained State and federal approval to co-fire approximately 325,000 gallons of PCBs contaminated oil (between 49-500 ppm), approximately 550,000 gallons of non-PCB contaminated oil and refuse derived fuel. BGE transferred ownership of the site to CPSG in October 2001. On February 8, 2001, CPSG received a transfer notice for BGE's general permit.

The coal ash deposited on-site extends a maximum depth of approximately 30 feet bgs and the reclamation areas have been capped using a 6 inch thick clay layer (previously rated permeability of 1×10^{-6} cm/sec) and 6 inch thick top soil and vegetation cover. The site is located in a groundwater use area and the closest potable well is located approximately 1,100 feet east of the subject property.



Environmental Actions and Investigations

On July 15, 1982, BGE submitted a 397 permit application to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop the Rossville site by reclaiming the former clay mine with coal fly ash structural fill. On October 26, 1982, the Baltimore County Department of Health issued a special Waste Disposal Facilities Permit to operate an industrial fly ash disposal site at Rossville based upon the 397 permit application. On January 26, 1988, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) issued a validated Industrial Waste Disposal Permit to dispose fly ash structural fill at the Rossville site. On March 29, 1988, MDE issued a modification to the reporting requirements of the Industrial Waste Permit. On April 27, 1988, MDE issued a Pozzolan exemption for the disposal of coal fly ash structural fill material. The exemption effectively voided the previous permits by deregulating the disposal of Pozzolan materials from solid waste regulations. After the deregulation, BGE voluntarily continued to operate and monitor the disposal facility under the permit requirements.

Numerous subsurface studies and investigations related to the 397 permit application had been conducted at the Rossville site prior to 1982. Additional groundwater monitoring wells were installed on-site in November 1999, December 2006 and August 2009. Voluntary quarterly groundwater monitoring continued on-site since the Pozzolan exemption was issued in 1988. Three off-site drinking water wells located within a 1-mile radius have been periodically monitored since September 2007. In August 2008, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted on the property that identified recognized environmental conditions associated with coal fly ash used to reclaim the former clay mine and the associated storm water management features. In August 2008, a Phase II ESA was conducted at the property.

Current Status

On August 20, 2008, CPSG submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application seeking a Certificate of Completion as a responsible person. Future property use was indicated as Tier 2B, restricted commercial land use. The Department is currently awaiting the Phase II completion report as part of the application package.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

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