



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: MINERAL HILL NOA SITE

SITE LOCATION

The Mineral Hill Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) site is located off of Rt. 32 approximately three miles north of Eldersburg in Carroll County, Maryland. The 6-acre site contains two tailings piles and is located on a hill above the Liberty Reservoir. The geographic coordinates are latitude 39.438131 degrees north and longitude -76.930153 degrees west.

SITE HISTORY

The Mineral Hill site has been mined since the mid 18th century. A history of mining in Maryland identifies the Mineral Hill Mine as being first opened in the 1750s. The pre-Revolutionary War era Mineral Hill Mine was opened in 1742 by John Diggs for copper ore extraction. This mine featured a 2 ½ feet thick hematite vein. At its peak sometime after 1849, it employed 100 miners and was owned by the Tyson Mining Company until 1861 when it was transferred to the Mineral Hill Mining Company, which operated the site until sometime around 1891. The Mineral Hill NOA site was identified in the March 2010, *Maryland Naturally Occurring Asbestos Initiative Report* as a Level I Priority NOA Initiative site. Level I sites are those with the greatest potential to expose large and sensitive populations to NOA.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

A Site Inspection (SI) was conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in June of 2012. Surface soils were analyzed for asbestos and inorganics at locations near the mine locations and along the access road. No soil sample contained more than 0.75% asbestos but levels of aluminum, arsenic, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese and vanadium were consistently identified in surface soil samples at levels exceeding MDE and EPA residential benchmarks.

CURRENT STATUS

Although this investigation identified elevated levels of metals in the soil, and as a result, elevated risks associated with exposures to these media, metals naturally occur in this area at these concentrations. Although tremolite asbestos was identified in the soils, it was identified at levels below EPA action levels. Therefore, MDE is not recommending further investigation at this site at this time.



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