

EAST BALTIMORE DUMPING COMPLEX
Baltimore County, Maryland
(Proposed National Priorities List Site)

Baltimore County	
1953	Permitted landfill operations began.
1969	Baltimore County obtained a court order to end landfill operations.
1970	Trespassing and illegal dumping began.
1982	Removal Action mandated by the Baltimore County Circuit Court and carried out by the owner of the site and a neighboring property owner.
1984	Removal Action mandated by the State's Waste Management Administration and carried out by the owner of the site.
1985	Removal Action mandated by the State's Waste Management Administration and carried out by the property owner after a fire occurred on the site. CERCLA Preliminary Assessments were completed.
1986	CERCLA Site Inspection was completed.
1989	CERCLA Site Inspection was completed.
1992	Level I CERCLA Site Inspection Prioritization was completed.
1995	Phase I CERCLA Expanded Site Inspection was completed.
1999	In January, site proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). Questions concerning the site have delayed the final listing.

Site Location

The East Baltimore Dumping Complex is located near the town of Rosedale in Baltimore County, Maryland. The complex is composed of three separate Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) sites: 68th Street Dump site (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises site (MD-184), and R.M. Winstead site (MD-133). These CERCLIS sites have been combined based upon common operations and operators. The complex covers a total area of approximately 165 acres. The 68th Street Dump site covers approximately 125 acres of the complex and includes the R.M. Winstead site (approximately 3 acres) within its site boundaries. The Industrial Enterprises site covers approximately 40 acres of the complex. The approximate boundaries of the complex are Chessie Systems Express Transportation (CSXT [formerly Baltimore and Ohio]) rail lines to the north, Redhouse Run and Back River to the east, a combination of Herring Run and Pennsylvania Railroad rail lines to the south, and Interstate 95 to the west.

The complex is composed primarily of wooded and open land that has been extensively modified by landfilling operations. Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc., an auto repair shop, and Baltimore County's Redhouse Run Pumping Station and sewer pipeline are located within the boundaries of the complex.

There are six surface water bodies that flow through the site. Herring Run flows eastward through the site and empties into the headwaters of the Back River, a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. Moore's Run and an unnamed stream flow eastward, Redhouse Run flows southward, and two unnamed streams flow northward through the site and empty into the on-site portions of the Herring Run. One of the unnamed streams originates from an on-site pond located in the northern portion of the site.

Access to the site is unrestricted and trespassers are common. Unauthorized burning and nuisance dumping continue to occur at the site.

Site History

The East Baltimore Dumping Complex site was the location of a number of permitted and non-permitted landfills that operated from the early 1950s to the late 1970s. These landfills accepted various types and quantities

of industrial, commercial, and municipal wastes, including: solvents, paints, flammable liquids, flyash, automobile tires, and 55-gallon drums containing heavy metal sludges produced by electroplating processes. Other operations at the site included dumping waste oils and other unidentified wastes into open lagoons, salvaging metal and cardboard containers, incinerating refuse, and spreading uncooled incinerator ash from the Baltimore City incinerator.

Inspection reports noted numerous problems associated with the site, including: inadequate cover of refuse, uncontrolled fires, nuisance odors, improper disposal of drums and other salvageable materials, and migration of oil and refuse into Herring Run and Moore's Run. In 1969, the Baltimore County Health Department obtained a court order to end landfill operations. Available information, however, indicates that as late as 1978, wastes from a metal finishing company in Pennsylvania may have been transported to the site.

There have been three removal actions completed at the site. In 1979, inspectors from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Administration (WRA) discovered buried drums containing a grayish-green powdery sludge material along the western site property boundary, immediately east of the Baltimore Galvanizing Company (BGC) property. This discovery occurred while a local excavating company was filling, grading, and leveling the ground in this area. Samples of the drummed material revealed potentially hazardous concentrations of heavy metals. A lengthy legal dispute ensued between WRA, the site property owner, and BGC. As a result of the legal dispute, the Baltimore County Circuit Court ordered the site property owner and BGC to excavate and properly dispose of the drums and associated material. In 1982, approximately 23 drums, some of which were badly deteriorated, were excavated and transported off site for proper disposal. More than half of the drums contained the grayish-green powdery sludge material. The remaining drums were empty. The second removal action was completed in 1984 after personnel from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waste Management Administration (WAS) discovered ten 55-gallon drums protruding from a hillside on the portion of the site that is now being leased to the Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc. This discovery occurred while WAS was conducting a photographic survey of the site. At WAS's request, the owner of the site excavated and transported these drums off site for proper disposal. Sampling of the drums prior to their removal revealed that one drum contained paint sludge and the rest were empty. The last removal action was completed in 1985 after a fire occurred on the "island area" portion of the site. Air samples that were collected by WAS during the fire revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). After the fire was put out, over forty 55-gallon drums were discovered protruding from the surface in this area. At WAS's request, the owner of the site excavated and transported these drums off-site for proper disposal. The "island area" was subsequently covered with two feet of soil, capped with a sewage sludge/soil mixture, and vegetated.

In 1985, two Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Preliminary Assessments were completed at the site. CERCLA Site Inspections were completed at the site in 1986 and 1989. In 1992, a CERCLA Level I Site Inspection Prioritization was completed at the site. In 1995, a CERCLA Phase I Expanded Site Inspection was completed at the site. These studies indicated that VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and heavy metals have been disposed of at the site. Furthermore, these studies indicated the detection of elevated levels of SVOCs, pesticides, PCBs, and heavy metals in on-site soils, elevated levels of SVOCs, PCBs, and heavy metals in on-site sediments, and elevated levels of heavy metals in on-site surface water.

Only one potable water supply well exists at the site. The Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc. and an auto repair shop are using water from this well for non-potable purposes. The total depth of this well is approximately 125 feet. This well was last sampled for metals in July 1997. Sample results at that time indicated that thallium was detected at 12 parts per billion (ppb), which is slightly above the 2 ppb Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for that contaminant in drinking water. There were no other metals that exceeded their MCL in that sample. The last time this well was sampled for VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides, and PCBs was in June 1993. Sample results at that time indicated that this well was free of organic and inorganic contaminants. The vast majority of the residents within a four-mile radius of the site obtain their drinking water from Baltimore municipal water systems. There are, however, a few residential wells located less than a mile from the site. These wells were last sampled in July 1998. Sample results at that time indicated that the site had not adversely impacted these residential wells.

The East Baltimore Dumping Complex site was proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL) on January 19, 1999. During the public comment period, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received extensive comments from one of the original operators and from current property owners at the site. As a result of the questions raised, the EPA conducted an extensive sampling event at the site in April-May 2000 to re-evaluate their decision to propose the site to the NPL. In October 2000, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) received a draft copy of the EPA's sampling report for review. The MDE provided the EPA with written comments on the draft report in November 2000.

Current Status

In June 2001, the MDE received a revised draft copy of the EPA's April-May 2000 sampling report for review. The EPA continues to identify Potentially Responsible Parties who will be responsible for the cost of the investigation and cleanup at the site.

Planned Future Actions

Based on the results of the April-May 2000 sampling event, as well as other relevant data and historical waste disposal practices at the site, the EPA will re-evaluate their decision to list the East Baltimore Dumping Complex site on the NPL. The EPA is expected to determine if the site will be re-proposed to the NPL in September 2001. Until the finalization of the NPL decision, the activities at the site will be coordinated by the Site and Brownfields Assessment/State Superfund Division.

Facility Contacts

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Site Repository

EPA will identify a repository once the site is finalized on the NPL.