

**Norris Farm Landfill/Chemical Processing Center (MD-18)  
Dundalk, Baltimore County, Maryland**

***Site Location***

The 230-acre Norris Farm Landfill site (MD-18) is located in eastern Baltimore County on the western shore of Back River. The entrance to the site is off Trappe Road on the western portion of the site. Bread and Cheese Creek delineates the north and northwestern border of the site and separates it from the Back River Sewage Treatment Plant. Tidal flats along Back River define the eastern border of the site. The Norris Farm Landfill site is also listed on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) under the aliases MD-22, MD-23 and MD-48. The 2-acre Chemical Processing Center (CPC) site (MD-79) is located on the Norris Farm Landfill site adjacent to the entrance on Trappe Road.

Because the CPC site is located on the Norris Farm Landfill, these separately identified CERCLIS sites are being presented together for clarity.

***Site History***

The Norris Farm Landfill site and surrounding area was the site of sand and gravel operations prior to 1967 when Refuse Disposal, Inc. began permitted sanitary landfill operations. In 1973, Robb-Tyler, Inc., a subsidiary to Browning-Ferris, Inc. (BFI), was issued a permit to operate the landfill with an additional 136-acre extension. Municipal and industrial wastes, including acids, bases, pesticides, organics and commercial sludges were reportedly disposed of on site prior to hazardous waste regulations. Wastes were deposited in lifts 30 to 40 feet in height in the two cells on site. The cells are separated by a constructed wetland. During the 1980s, a bentonite slurry wall and a leachate collection system that surrounds the site were constructed. The cells were capped with clay and a geo-membrane was installed between the cells and the eastern terminus of the constructed wetland area in 1990. The Waste Management Administration's Solid Waste Program monitors post-closure activities.

In 1974, the CPC site (MD-079) owned by BFI, began operations on site and treated acids and bases through neutralization in lagoons. Oil and solvent recovery took place through evaporation and separation in lagoons and tanks. Other wastes were treated by solidification, using cement kiln dust and drying. Solid wastes were transported off site to BFI's Solley Road Landfill. Oil and solvents were transported out of state for reclamation and treated liquids were disposed of at the Back River Sewage Treatment Plant. As a result of citizen pressure and citations from both Baltimore County and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for overfilling the lagoons, the facility closed in late 1981.

***Environmental Investigations***

In June 1980, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Norris Farm Landfill site as a result of its placement on the Eckhardt's List.

In 1986, NUS Corporation concurrently conducted a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection of the CPC site (MD-79) and a Site Inspection of the Norris Farm Landfill site (MD18). Samples from the 14 monitoring wells, the leachate collection system and a surface drainage feature between the two cells were collected in conjunction with the Norris Farm Landfill site (MD-018) only. Analytical results from samples collected from the monitoring wells, located outside of the slurry wall, and the leachate collection system revealed low levels of organic and inorganic contamination. Analytical results from samples collected from the surface drainage feature between the cells revealed low levels of inorganic contamination.

In June 1992, the EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

***Current Status***

The Norris Farm Landfill site (MD-18) is monitored by the Solid Waste Division.

**Contact**

Arthur O'Connell, Chief

Site and Brownfields Assessment/State Superfund  
Division  
Maryland Department of the Environment

(410) 537-3493