



# Facts About...

Capitol Assay Labs (MD-253)  
State Master List

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## Site Location

Capitol Assay Labs (CAL) was located at 2901 Whittington Avenue in a small commercial/industrial park in southwestern Baltimore City. The site is one mile east of RT 95 and the Baltimore City Line. A CSX rail spur lies to the northeast of the site. Residential homes occupy property to the northwest of the site. The area southwest of the site is industrial/commercial. The coordinates for the site are 39° 15.5814' longitude by 076° 39.2733' latitude. The site is located on SDAT Map 25, Block 7841G, Lot 5.

## Site History

The history of the CAL site began in November 1986 when the Chief Constable for Maryland District Court processed an eviction on the tenant of 2213 Evergreen Street and found 40 to 50 drums of chemicals. The drums were transported from 2213 Evergreen Street to the CAL facility at 2901 Whittington Avenue.

CAL began operating in 1976 to reclaim precious metals from industrial chemicals and recycle caustic and corrosive chemicals. The company had a permit to discharge spent materials to the Baltimore City sewer system.

In May 1987, the Baltimore City Sherriff's office executed a writ of possession on the warehouse at 2901 Whittington Avenue and found gas cylinders and drums and open containers of various chemicals. MDE responded to the scene and tried unsuccessfully to have a responsible party assume the clean-up of the site. EPA was subsequently contacted and an emergency removal action began on May 28, 1987.

## Environmental Investigations

The USEPA performed an Emergency Removal Action at CAL between May 28, 1987 and July 8, 1987. The responsible parties took over the clean-up under EPA Enforcement oversight on August 26, 1987.

MDE performed a Preliminary Assessment of CAL beginning in April 1988. Samples collected during the assessment identified elevated levels of lead and arsenic in material spilled on the ground behind the site.

In September 1990, MDE finalized a Screening Site Assessment of the CAL site. Results of the investigation identified copper contamination of site soils. Based on information collected during the September 1989 investigation it was determined that "the site did not meet the criteria for an expanded site inspection." MDE recommended that the site be given a "No Further Remedial Action Planned" status.

## Current Status

The site of the former CAL is a well maintained block of leased warehouse spaces. The primary CAL spaces are locked and have no identifying signage on the property. The two secondary warehouse spaces used by CAL are occupied by a hardware supplier. Based on available information the site was moved to MDE's formerly investigated sites list.

## Contact

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

**Last Update:** January 2011

