

**UNION ROAD DUMP (MD-446)**  
**Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland**

***Site Location***

The Union Road Dump is located on a 20-acre tract of land located at 1515 Union Road, Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland. The inactive dump covers approximately four acres of the total property owned by Herman Lieske, Jr. The western boundary of the dump area is defined by Gray's Run. The other boundaries of the dump have not been precisely defined.

***Site History***

Between 1942 and 1965, Herman Lieske, Sr., used this property to dispose of refuse collected from several housing developments in Aberdeen, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and Edgewood Arsenal. Historical records from the Department of Health report that in the Fall of 1952, Lieske was contracted by Harford County to use his property as a dump for County refuse. Lieske would collect the trash, sort out the salvageable materials, burn the remaining waste, push it over the face of the dump, and periodically cover it with fill dirt from his property and the Harford County Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division.

Files indicate that this site has been investigated since at least 1952. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) was responsible for the inspections until 1987, when the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) was established.

***Environmental Investigations***

In 1988 and 1990, citizen complaints citing debris in Gray's Run prompted another inspection by MDE's Solid Waste Division, who then referred the site to MDE's Site Assessment/State Superfund Division for further investigation. In 1992, a site visit conducted by MDE's Site Assessment Division as part of a Preliminary Assessment revealed that drums containing liquid were being stored on-site. Hazardous Waste Enforcement personnel, also in attendance, conducted field tests which concluded that none of the drums contained hazardous materials. Lab tests of soil samples indicated no hazardous constituents in the soil.

A Focused Site Inspection conducted in 1994, revealed metals in groundwater, metals and low levels of semi-volatile organics (SVOCs), pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls in the soil, metals in surface water, and semi-volatiles and pesticides in the sediment.

In 1998, an Expanded Site Inspection was completed, during which groundwater samples were collected around the dump area using direct-push technology. Soil, surface water, and sediment samples were also collected. Aroclor 1260 was detected at 1.1 µg/L in one of the surface water samples. SVOCs and pesticides (in sediment) and metals, pesticides, and SVOCs (in soil) were detected at concentrations exceeding background levels. Tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in one groundwater sample at 1 µg/L. PCE was not detected in a duplicate of that sample.

No regulatory actions have been taken at the site. Because of the age of the dump, no permit was ever issued for this facility. There is no known documentation of any hazardous waste being dumped at this site.

***Current Status***

MDE has issued letters to both the property owner and the County recommending that additional work be performed to ensure site conditions are adequately monitored.

***Contact***

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Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division