

**MD-290
Dorchester County**

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| 1961 | Western Publishing Co. purchased the property. |
| 1982 | DHMH observed an oil spill at the site. |
| 1983 | State oil-handling and air management permits obtained. |
| 1986 | Western Publishing obtained City of Cambridge wastewater discharge permit. |
| 1989 | MDE prepared an Environmental Priorities Initiative/Preliminary Assessment report. |

Questionable and improper handling of waste materials reported to Air Management Administration and HSWMA's Enforcement Division.

**WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY
Cambridge, Maryland**

Site Location

The Western Publishing Company is located at Woods Road in an industrial part of the City of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. U.S. Route 50 is about ¼ mile northeast of the property. The site is surrounded by the Airpax Company and a vacant building to the east, Cambridge Wire Cloth to the west, three commercial enterprises to the south, and an 84 Lumber Company on the south. The facility occupies 11 acres and is comprised of one main building that housed the administrative offices, the production area and warehouse.

Four storage tanks were located north of the building near the parking lot. One 10,000-gallon underground storage tank stored #4 fuel oil for firing the boilers, and was also used for mixing the fuel oil with the still bottoms from the recovery still plant. This tank was subsequently removed. Three 1,500-gallon aboveground storage tanks are located at the facility. However, only one tank is currently being used to store roller wash. The fourth aboveground

storage tank was an empty 20,000-gallon tank that purportedly was never used by Western Publishing and has been removed.

Site History

The Phillips family previously owned the Western Publishing site as far back as 1910. The company was involved in several businesses that included food processing. Deed records show that Consolidated Foods Corporation sold the property to Western Publishing Company in May 1961. Western Publishing used the property for commercial printing and binding. The waste products from the processes were used oil, spent solvent, fountain solution, used plates, solvent vapor, dryer exhaust, and scrap paper.

The company had a wastewater discharge permit from the City of Cambridge, first obtained in 1986; a state oil-handling permit; and five State air management permits obtained in 1983.

Environmental Investigations

In March 1982, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) observed an oil spill in a drum storage area outside the Western Publishing building. The contaminated area was approximately 700 square feet. Western Publishing cleaned up three 30-gallon drums of oil-contaminated soil and gravel from the area and disposed of it at the Dorchester County Landfill Site #3 on April 16, 1982.

In 1989, the Maryland Department of the Environment's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (MDE HSWMA) prepared an *Environmental Priorities Initiative/ Preliminary Assessment* report of the Western Publishing facility. During the site inspection, HSWMA noted that the company mixed waste still bottoms with the fuel oil for burning in boilers, and referred the information to MDE's Air Management Administration for investigation of a potential air permit violation. The Air Management Administration responded that they notified Western Publishing that any waste fluid burning at the facility should cease and desist immediately, and were preparing a corrective order to that effect. The HSWMA also noted that soiled absorbent material was disposed of in an on-site dumpster that went to the Dorchester County landfill. The observation was referred to HSWMA's Enforcement Division for investigation. In December 1997, the site was purchased by Mail-Well Graphics, Inc., which currently operates the facility.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

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