



Facts About...

Chesapeake Wood Treating Co. MD-453
(State Master List Site)

Site Location

The Chesapeake Wood Treating Co. site is located at 33677 Peach Orchard Road, Pocomoke City, Somerset County. The 128.26-acre site is situated in a mixed-use area of the county near residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial properties. The site lies on the north side of the Pocomoke River across from Pocomoke City and Worcester County.

Site History

The Chesapeake Wood Treating site is owned by Smurfit-Stone Forest Resources and is currently used for intermittent storage of sawdust waste from operations on the adjacent site. Prior to 1988, the site was owned by Chesapeake Plywood, Inc. which manufactured plywood and treated wood products with copper chromium arsenate (CCA) preservatives at the site. In 1988, Chesapeake Plywood sold the property to Chesapeake Wood Treating, who continued the production of plywood until 1993. The site was “cleaned up” after production was shut down in 1993. Drip pads, chemicals used in production and process equipment were removed and properly disposed. In 1999, the property was sold to Chesapeake Building Products. In 2000, Chesapeake Building Products sold the property to Smurfit-Stone Forest Resources, the current occupants of the site. Previous studies on the site indicated a possibility that some of the resin used in laminating the plywood may have been buried on the site.

Environmental Investigations

In 1993, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) performed a preliminary assessment (PA) of the site. There was concern over the disposal of the glue material used to laminate the plywood. Site operators stated that waste was transported and disposed at the local landfill, but there is suspicion that some of the waste was buried on this site. There was additional concern over the disposal of waste CCA on the adjacent site (also owned by Smurfit-Stone), still in operation producing wood products. Based on file review and site reconnaissance, the disposal area is likely on this adjacent property, and not on the inactive site studied for this Site Inspection. The PA recommended a re-evaluation of the entire wood products operation at a later time. However, the level of activity on the currently operating facility would not have allowed for site inspection activities. Therefore, MDE conducted a Site Inspection on the inactive portion in June 2007.

Current Status

In June 2007, soil and groundwater sampling was conducted by MDE at the site as part of a Site Inspection. The results of the analyses indicated that groundwater samples contained concentrations of some inorganics that exceeded MDE and/or EPA standards. Arsenic (up to 13 mg/kg) was elevated relative to industrial soil standards in surface soil. Sediment samples collected at outfall locations indicated the presence of copper,



chromium, and arsenic, with arsenic concentrations (up to 45.6 mg/kg) exceeding industrial standards. Some semi-volatile compounds were identified in some of the soil samples, but none were detected at levels exceeding regulatory standards. Data from the investigation is currently under review prior to the release of a report on the findings.

Contact Person

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