Maryland
Department of
the Environment

68th Street Dump (BMI 0174)

What You Need to Know

The 68th Street Dump site covers approximately 240 acres near Rosedale in Baltimore County, Maryland. The site is comprised of several former disposal and landfill areas. These areas include four sites on the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database: 68th Street Dump (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises (MD-184), Colgate Pay Dump (MD-176), and R.M. Winstead (MD-133). The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has been working in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to oversee site remediation.

Site Location

The approximate boundaries of the site are CSX rail lines to the north, Redhouse Run and Back River to the east, Herring Run and rail lines to the south, and rail lines to the west. I-95 transects the western portion of the site. The portion of the site west of I-95 is in Baltimore City, the remainder of the site is in Baltimore County. The site is composed primarily of wooded and open land that has been extensively modified by landfilling operations. Within the site's boundaries are a recycling facility, Baltimore County's Redhouse Run pumping station and sewer line.

Site History

The 68th Street Dump Site was the location of multiple permitted and non-permitted landfills that operated from the late 1940s to the late 1970s. These landfills accepted various types and quantities of industrial, commercial, and municipal wastes, including: solvents, paints, flammable liquids, fly ash, automobile tires, and 55-gallon drums containing heavy metal sludges produced by electroplating processes. Other operations at the site included dumping waste oils and other unidentified wastes into open lagoons, salvaging metal and cardboard containers, incinerating refuse, and spreading incinerator ash from the Baltimore City incinerator.

Environmental Investigation

- 1982 - Approximately 23 drums, some of which contained a powdery sludge, were excavated and transported off site for proper disposal.
- 1984 - Ten 55-gallon drums were identified protruding from a hillside. These drums were excavated and transported off site for proper disposal.
- 1985 - A fire occurred on the "island area" portion of the site. Air samples collected by MDE personnel during the fire revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). After the fire was extinguished, over forty 55-gallon drums were discovered. These drums were excavated and transported off-site for proper disposal. The "island area" was subsequently covered with two feet of soil, capped with a sewage sludge/soil mixture, and vegetated.

- 1999 - The site was proposed to the EPA's National Priorities List. Currently, the EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties (the 68th Street Coalition) have agreed to address the site as a Superfund Alternative Site (SAS) rather than as an NPL site. The site cleanup will occur using the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.
- 2008 - Contaminated surface soils, containers, gas cylinders, empty drums and batteries were removed and properly disposed.
- 2012 - A Remedial Design was approved for the site. The site was divided into 6 separate management areas (Areas A-F).
- 2013 - The Feasibility Study was approved in March. The Feasibility Study evaluates remedial options for consideration by the EPA to determine the appropriate cleanup action for the site.
- 2013 - The Proposed Plan for Remedial Action was issued by EPA in June.
- 2013 - The Record of Decision for Remedial Action was signed by EPA in September.
- 2017 - The EPA reached a settlement agreement with the Potentially Responsible Parties (the 68th Street Coalition). The settlement agreement specified financial requirements for site cleanup and natural resource damages.
- 2020 - The Preliminary Remedial Design was submitted to the EPA and MDE in October for review and comment.
- 2023 - The Remedial Design was partially approved by the EPA and MDE in March.

Cleanup to Begin 2023

The Selected Remedy includes the installation of a 2-foot cover of clean soil over the landfills, which will then be vegetated with trees, shrubs, and other native plants. Leachate and groundwater migrating from the landfills will be captured and treated prior to its discharge into the surface water by enhanced wetlands, a biowall and treated at a local wastewater treatment facility. Sediments from three on-site ponds will be excavated. The remedy also includes excavating or covering soil "hot spots," recycling or disposing of surface debris, extracting oily free product, constructing access barriers, excavating pond sediments, stabilizing stream banks, monitoring and implementing institutional controls. Future use of the site will be restricted to non-residential use and groundwater use restrictions will be implemented.