



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: POWHATAN PROSPECT - SITE ONE

Site Location

The only information on the location of this site dates to 1917 when an asbestos mine was reported to be on Fred Mett's property outside of Powhatan (Woodlawn). Property records document that Fred and Florence Mett acquired a 6.5 acre parcel of land in Woodlawn in September 1921. This was the only property in the Woodlawn area that was linked to Fred Mett. The 1917 date of the asbestos mining operation indicates that the mine may have been on property under the control of but not legally owned by Mr. Mett.

A 1904 topographic map for the Woodlawn area identifies a mine located on the northeast corner of Dogwood Road and Gwynn Oak Avenue. On this topographic map the mine is shown to be just east of the only two structures located on the northeast corner of the Dogwood Road and Gwynn Oak Avenue intersection. These structures remain visible on current aerial photographs of the area. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation property maps for the area show that the homes were located on Parcel 229 of Map 88. The geographic coordinates for the site are 39.3166417° north latitude and 076.7284208° west longitude. The Maryland Grid coordinates are 540,000 North by 776,750 East.

Site History

Records document that Fred Mett operated a mine on the edge of his property some time around 1917. The exact location of this mined area is not known. Property records show that in 1923 Fred and Francis Mett acquired several 'perches' of property in the Powhatan area. This property was the site of the Powhatan Company, later Corporation, processing plant located at 6721 Windsor Mill Road.

The mine identified from historic topographic maps was located on a large parcel at the intersection of Dogwood Road and Gwynn Oak Avenue (tax map 88/parcel 229). Property records for the site have been traced back to the 1800s when it was part of an estate known as Ashman's Hope. Frank Emmart acquired several parcels of land and combined them into a larger estate. This estate was then re-divided into several large parcels, parcel 229 being one of many. Parcel 229 was then subdivided into three sections (A, B and C) which were in 1968 subdivided into 54 small building lots. The mine is thought to have been located on the border of section B and C of parcel 229 near the current roadbed for Hillside Road.



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Environmental Investigation and Action

In November 2011 MDE performed a Preliminary Assessment of the property. There are no records of Phase I or II environmental studies having been done prior to that date.

Current Status

The area of the suspected Mett mine is currently commercial property; however, all surrounding properties are residential. There are no clear indications of tailings piles or of a pit or shaft mine on the property. The roadbed for Hillside Drive could actually be located over the area Mett mined. There are no clear indications that further assessment of this site is needed.



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