

MD-375
St. Mary's County

St. Mary's Salvage operated from 1975 until 1984. Electric transformers containing PCBs were dismantled and the hydraulic oil reused in an on-site compactor.

In 1985, DHMH performed a TSCA inspection and significant PCB contamination was detected.

In 1990, an Emergency Removal Action was initiated and 780 tons of soil was removed from the site.

In January 1996, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

ST. MARY'S SALVAGE
Hollywood, Maryland

Site Location

The 3.79-acre former St. Mary's Salvage site is located at 43966 Commerce Avenue, Hollywood, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The site is located in an area of the county that consists of rolling hills and flat valleys. There is one building and a parking lot on site. Most of the rest of the site consists of exposed soils that are heavily vegetated. Three residences are located to the north adjacent to the site. An office building is located to the south, across Commerce Avenue. A public auction building borders the site to the northeast. A wooded and overgrown vacant lot is adjacent to the west and southwest of the site.

Site History

Mr. Valentine Brynteson purchased the property from the St. Mary's Industrial Park in August 1975 and operated a scrap metal business until its bankruptcy in 1984. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) files indicated that electric transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), from St. Mary's Electric Company, were stored and processed on site, then sold as scrap metal. PCB containing oil from the transformers was reused in a large, chronically leaking hydraulic compactor/shredder that was obtained by St. Mary's Salvage in 1981. Former workers witnessed escape of hydraulic oil from the compactor and spillage of transformer oil on site.

In October 1984, Mr. John A. Combs purchased the property at public auction and is currently leasing it to Copenhaver Asphalt Service. Copenhaver Asphalt Service utilizes the eastern portion of the site as a parking area for trucks and other heavy equipment. The on-site building is used as an office. The site conditions have not changed since the last MDE visit in 1990.

Environmental Investigations

The site was listed on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System list as a result of a citizen's complaint dated November 9, 1984 alleging the burial of electrical transformers at the site. As a result, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) personnel visited the site in December 1984. Drums, stained soil and pools of liquid were observed on site.

In February 1985, DHMH performed a Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) inspection at the site and observed three distinct piles of soil moved from its original location around the hydraulic metal compactor. Eight soil samples were collected and PCBs were detected as high as 789 parts per million (ppm) around the compactor and 153 ppm in the soil piles. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk-Based Concentration (RBC) for PCBs in industrial soil is 2.9 ppm. In March 1985, DHMH issued Mr. Brynteson a site complaint for the improper storage of PCB contaminated soil. In May 1985, Roy F. Weston, Inc. sampled the site for EPA and PCBs were detected as high as 280 ppm in the vicinity of the compactor and 59 ppm in the piles of soil.

In January 1986, the site was sampled utilizing EPA "Verification of PCB Spill Cleanup Analysis" protocol by DHMH's TSCA personnel. Sample results revealed three areas of the site with high PCB contamination. Zone A (area around the hydraulic compactor) contained 2800 ppm PCB, zone B (upgradient) contained 69.6 ppm PCB, and zone D (northwest of the hydraulic compactor) contained 129 ppm.

In January 1988, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration personnel conducted a Preliminary Assessment. The facility was locked and inaccessible at the time. Scrap metal and drums observed during previous visits were removed. The hydraulic compactor and contaminated soil piles remained and automobile gas tanks were observed on site.

In August 1989, MDE sampled the site in a 50 feet grid pattern. Results revealed contamination with PCB up to 43 ppm, heavy metals up to 1910 ppm. Elevated levels of phthalates and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were also detected.

An Emergency Removal Action was initiated in April 1990 in response to the threat to human health via dermal contact with contamination on site. The hydraulic compactor was decontaminated and relocated to the south of the site and secured by fencing. Over 780 tons of contaminated soil and concrete was removed and disposed at a permitted hazardous waste facility in Emelle, Alabama. After the excavation was completed, soil sampling revealed no contamination above regulatory limits. The excavated areas were then backfilled with clean fill. No contaminants were detected in the groundwater in nearby residential, municipal and on-site wells. Soil samples downgradient from the excavated area showed no off-site migration or contamination.

In January 1996, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

Current Status

Under a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA Superfund Program, the MDE is conducting a site survey of the St. Mary's Salvage site. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA, or no further action be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

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