



Facts About...

Hagerstown-Broadfording Road
(State Master List MD-341)

Site Location

The Broadfording Road site is an area of approximately 200 acres located northwest of Hagerstown just outside of the city limits. The site is bordered by State routes, 58, 63, 40 and Interstate-81, and is primarily rurally populated with a few small commercial operations.

Site History

On February 19, 1987, a local resident complained of oil in his drinking water well to the Washington County Health Department. Following sampling and confirmation, it was determined that the well was contaminated above drinking water standards with volatile organic compounds.

Environmental Investigations

The contaminated water well incident resulted in a 1987 groundwater investigation of the area by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the County, which concluded that a number of domestic home wells had chlorinated volatile organic contamination above the drinking water standards. Additionally, MDE was able to delineate a plume of the contamination, but could not determine a clear potentially responsible party in the case.

On September 24, 1987, MDE contacted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and requested emergency Superfund assistance to provide potable water for the affected residents. EPA replied on October 27, 1987 that the site did not meet EPA's criteria for initiating a removal action.

On December 3, 1987, MDE organized the installation of temporary water treatment systems, comprised of activated carbon filtration and UV bacteriostat, on 13 home wells exceeding the drinking water standards within the plume area.

Current Status

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Program's State Superfund Division of MDE acquired the project in 1992. Subsequent sampling has been conducted by the CHS Enforcement Division (formerly State Superfund) to monitor the contaminant concentrations in the residential and commercial wells. Sampling frequencies at approximately 13 locations vary from approximately every six months to every two years, depending on the historical concentrations. Sampling has been discontinued at approximately 8 locations due to consistently low concentrations of the contaminants. The latest sampling results indicate contaminant levels on a generally decreasing trend, although some of the before-filtration levels remain above the Maximum Contaminant Levels for trichloroethene. The CHS Enforcement Division oversees maintenance of the systems and replaces the carbon filtration media as needed. As the contaminant levels have been decreasing, the installation of a city water line was determined to be unnecessary.



Conclusions/Recommendations

The CHS Enforcement Division will continue to monitor the commercial and residential wells for contaminants and maintain the carbon-filtration systems.

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