



Groundwater Investigation

High's Store #98

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) received notification of petroleum constituents detected in the groundwater at the High's of Baltimore, LLC (High's) Store, located at 13522 Long Green Pike in Baldwin. This facility is currently owned and operated by High's and has been an active gasoline retail station under various ownership since the early 1980s. OCP monitors the facility under open Case No. 2017-0166-BA.

Site History

In October 1994, two 2,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) systems were removed from the site. During the tank removals, two previously unknown 550-gallon UST systems were discovered and also removed. The current UST systems were installed in February 1995 and are comprised of two gasoline UST systems: one 8,000-gallon, and one 6,000-gallon capacity. Currently, three groundwater monitoring wells and a transient non-community drinking water supply well are located on the site.

Based on petroleum impacts observed during the October 1994 UST system removals, OCP opened Case No. 1994-1720-BA and required the installation of a monitoring well. Following long-term monitoring of the monitoring well, the on-site supply well, and eight off-site private supply wells (no detectable petroleum constituents), Case No. 1994-1720-BA was closed in October 2003.

In June 2006, samples collected from three newly installed monitoring wells detected methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and benzene at concentrations of 110 parts per billion (ppb) and 17 ppb, respectively. In August 2006, OCP opened Case No. 2007-0126-BA. The site's three monitoring wells, supply well, and seven off-site private supply wells were periodically sampled as part of this case. Samples collected from the on-site monitoring wells MW-1 and MW-2 were non-detect for petroleum constituents. Low dissolved phase concentrations of petroleum constituents detected in monitoring well MW-3 showed stable to decreasing trends. No petroleum constituents were detected above groundwater standards or the Maryland action level for MTBE in either the on-site or off-site supply wells. OCP closed Case No. 2007-0126-BA in July 2009.

OCP case number 2017-0166-BA (the current case) was opened in September 2016 following the detection of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) in the UST system monitoring pipes. The presence of LPH in the monitoring pipes was attributed to a surface spill that occurred at the site. The LPH were recovered over time and have not been detected at the site since October of 2017.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

On March 24, 2023, MDE received notification of the detection of benzene in a water sample collected from monitoring well MW-3. The sampling was performed pursuant to MDE directives associated with active OCP Case No. 2017-0166-BA. Benzene was reported at a concentration of 7.15 ppb, which exceeds the notification of 5 ppb. In response to the benzene detection, MDE required the collection of



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Groundwater Investigation

High's Store #98

a confirmation sample from MW-3. On March 31, 2023, a confirmatory sample was collected, and benzene was detected at a concentration of 9.51 ppb. The other on-site monitoring wells (MW-1 and MW-2) were either non-detect (ND) for petroleum related compounds or below notification limits. The on-site drinking water supply well was sampled on February 9, 2023, and all results were ND.

On April 7, 2023, MDE provided notice of the detections to the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability and the Baltimore County Department of Health.

Current Status

Based on the recent detections of benzene, MDE is working with Baltimore County to notify property owners within one-half mile of the site, as required by state law. MDE will request access to select adjacent properties to perform water supply well sampling. Once sampling results are obtained, MDE will evaluate what additional actions will be necessary to protect human health and the environment. High's will continue to monitor groundwater at the site, as directed by MDE.

Future Updates

Postings available on www.mde.maryland.gov

File available at MDE's headquarters in Baltimore.

Contacts

Oil Control Program: 410-537-3442 or 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3442

Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability: 410-887-2762

High's #98: 410-261-5450

Disclaimer

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, MDE recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.