



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## **FACTS ABOUT: BALTIMORE SUN PROPERTY (Voluntary Cleanup Program)**

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### **Site Location**

The Baltimore Sun property is located at 300 East Cromwell Street in Baltimore City, Maryland. The property is located in a commercial-industrial area that is bounded to the north by Interstate 95, to the west by Route 2 (Hanover Street), to the east and south by Cromwell Street and Port Covington. Surface water from the property flows into storm drains that discharge to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Public water and sewer service is supplied to the property and the vicinity by the City of Baltimore.

### **Site History**

The property consists of four lots (1, 1A, 1B, and 9A); Lot 1 has a stand-alone commercial building (the Baltimore Sun Printing Facility), Lot 1B has a garage and fueling station, and Lots 1A and 9A are vacant land. The main building was reportedly constructed around 1990. Prior to 1990, the use of the majority of the property was as the Port Covington Railyard. Historical records also indicate that a 2.4-million gallon molasses aboveground storage tank was located on the southeast portion of the property. The current property owner is 300 East Cromwell Street, LLC who acquired the property in 2014; prior to that MD-Sun Park, LLC had owned the property since 1990.

### **Environmental Investigations**

The 2014 Phase I environmental site assessment indicated several recognized environmental conditions for the property; the historic rail yard operation and the current and former fueling station operations. A Phase II environmental site investigation work plan was received with the VCP application; extensive additional sampling was requested by the Program and completed in July 2015. The Oil Control Program has files related to underground storage tank (UST) removals in 2003; elevated levels of petroleum compounds were noted in the soil at that time.

After receiving the VCP application, extensive additional sampling was requested by the Program and conducted in July 2015. The results indicate low-level soil contamination by metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Sub-slab soil vapor samples were collected and indicated no risk to indoor air from soil vapor intrusion.

### **Current Status**

On June 2, 2015, 300 East Cromwell Street, LLC submitted an application to the Voluntary Cleanup Program as an inculpable person seeking a Certificate of Completion



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for Tier 2B (Commercial Restricted) future use of the property. On October 26, 2015, East Cromwell Street, LLC was confirmed as an inculpable person (“IP”) (expedited IP status was received on December 17, 2014) and the property was accepted into the VCP pending development and completion of a response action plan. A proposed RAP was submitted to the VCP on February 16, 2016 and a public meeting was held on March 8, 2016.

On April 15, 2016 the property was withdrawn from the VCP at the request of the participant.



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