



Facts About...

Cox Creek Refining
(MD-456)

Site Location

The Cox Creek Refining Company (CCRC) is a 167-acre site located at 1000 Kembo Road, Foreman's Corner, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The property is located in an industrial area in Anne Arundel County just south of the Baltimore City line. The CCRC site was bordered on the east by the Patapsco River, on the north by SCM Chemicals (MD-009), on the south by a Maryland Port Authority dredge spoil disposal area and on the west by the railroad. The site topography is generally flat with a gradual slope towards the Patapsco River. The geographic coordinates of the site are 76°32'30" west longitude by 39°11'55" north latitude.

Site History

The facility was used for copper refining and the manufacturing of copper wire and rod from 1959 until 1995. The facility was constructed by Kennecott Refining Company who operated it until 1986. In 1986 the plant was acquired by the Cox Creek Refining Corporation who continued to manufacture copper wire and rod until 1995. In April 1997, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) acquired the property.

Environmental Investigations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has been involved with the site since 1991 through RCRA-implemented efforts to improve hazardous waste conditions at the site. Environmental assessments of the property have indicated extensive on-site contamination by inorganic substances including lead, copper, chromium, and arsenic.

In early 1993, the U.S. Coast Guard reported a PCB-contaminated oil spill at the facility. This spill was addressed by the responsible party. Subsequent MDE assessments revealed elevated inorganics in several areas that had been associated with production, including the former "skullyard" (copper ore), a former fire-brick storage yard, a waste staging area, and an equipment cleaning area. The facility has also experienced releases of oil from both above and underground storage tanks. Samples were collected to characterize potential problems such as the lagoon east of the facility, an on-site settling pond, and several other areas of concern.

A Preliminary Assessment was performed on the site by the MDE, Site Assessment Division, in January 1994. A "no further remedial action planned under CERCLA" designation was recommended for the site, based on the fact that remediation is being monitored under MDE's Hazardous Waste Program's Resources Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Program at this time. EPA accepted that designation as final in December 1994 and the site was officially archived.



Active remediation under MDE oversight was undertaken to address contamination in 17 areas of the site identified as significantly contaminated. In October 1995, EA Engineering drafted a *Remedial Action Report for the Cox Creek Refining Company*, which detailed the results of the remedial effort.

It was noted in 1995 that production no longer occurred at the site and that only a small staff was employed to maintain the facility and to work on remediation of the site.

Current Status

The Cox Creek Refining Plant is no longer in operation. Portions of the old plant building are being used by non related companies. The MPA, who acquired the property from CCRC in April 1997, has a field office located on the grounds and is currently filling a dredge spoil disposal cell due east of the closed CCRC plant.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

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