



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: FROSTBURG GAS LIGHT COMPANY SITE

SITE LOCATION

The Frostburg Gas Light Company was located at 75 S. Grant Street, Frostburg, Allegany County, Maryland 21532. The coordinates for the center of the property are 39° 39.120' North latitude and -78° 55.417 West longitude. The SDAT reference for the property is Map 202 Parcels 1069B and 1077B.

SITE HISTORY

The Frostburg Gas Light Company is a former coal gasification plant located on Grant Street in eastern Frostburg, Maryland. The manufacturing operations on the site started sometime in 1871. Gas manufacturing ceased sometime between 1904 and 1910.

The coal gas was probably produced using a carbonization method. The process used for oil gasification is unknown. It is assumed that a ferric oxide solution was used to purify the gas resulting in cyanide waste. The quantities of tar and purifier wastes generated at the site are not known.

By 1930 the gas plant was completely dismantled and no longer appears on Sanborn Maps of the area. The site property was divided into two parcels. The southernmost parcel is owned by the Potomac Edison Company, who operates the Frostburg Substation on this parcel. The northern parcel is owned by R&R Properties, LLC.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND ACTION

In 1987, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment of the site. MDE concluded that further investigation was necessary to determine if buried waste remained on site.

A Site Survey was conducted in September 1999. The survey recommended that the site be further investigated for the presence of a manufactured gas plant waste and byproduct contamination.

CURRENT STATUS

The possibility exists that waste generated during the plant's 35 years of operation remains on site. Little is known of the dismantling of site apparatus and removal of process waste following plant decommissioning. A low priority site investigation with appropriate sampling is still recommended.



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