



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: KOPPERS COMPANY – OLD TOWN SITE (MD-42)

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### **Site Location and Ownership**

The Koppers Company – Old Town Site is located off of Ruby Road and Warrior Mountain Road in the Old Town area of Allegany County, Maryland. The Site is identified on Allegany County Tax Map 40 as parcel 58, and, based on the most current information from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, it has been owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources since November 2010.

### **Site History**

The site originally was identified in the 1979 Eckhardt survey. It was alleged that fungicides, intermediates, oils and oil sludges generated from the Koppers Green Springs Wood Treatment Plant in Green Springs, West Virginia were disposed at this location. Information from the former owner and operator, Charles Walters, and site observation by United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III Field Investigation Team (FIT III) personnel indicated that about 1.5 tons per week of old tie rails, sawdust, steel bands, creosote soaked refuse and packing materials were deposited on the property from 1979 to 1981.

### **Environmental Investigation**

The first environmental investigation occurred in 1979. The nationwide Waste Disposal Site Survey, which is now widely referred to as the Eckhardt Survey, identified the Koppers Company – Old Town Site as a suspect hazardous waste disposal site.

In September 1980, the FIT III personnel initially inspected the site. Inspectors observed that waste materials originating from the Koppers Company were being used to backfill a ravine on the property. The ravine also housed a small stream channel. A Preliminary Assessment was conducted in July 1981. At that time, the known landfill area and the area suspected of being used as an illegal dump were inspected. The old landfill showed no obvious signs of environmental contamination, and the illegal dump site could not be located.

Independent investigation by the Department of Natural Resources personnel determined that the site posed a potential threat to a local trout stream, which was also utilized as



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drinking water by local cattle. As a result of these investigations, Charles Walters entered into an agreement with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to excavate the ravine and dispose of regulated or hazardous wastes in a licensed facility. The site owner, Mr. Walters, proceeded to excavate the soil, but rather than removing it from the Site, stockpiled it directly adjacent to the ravine in two large stockpiles.

In 1985, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and EPA personnel sampled the two large piles of soil and debris. The first pile, designated as Pile A, consisted of approximately 1,150 cubic yards of material. The second pile, designated as Pile B, contained approximately 3,000 cubic yards of material. The material had originated from the Koppers Company - Green Springs Wood Treatment Facility in West Virginia. Laboratory analysis of the collected samples revealed elevated concentrations of phenols.

### **Current Status**

The Koppers Company – Old Town Site is listed as an open investigation on the State Master List as MD-42.

This property is still considered an active case by the MDE. The case file was revisited by MDE Controlled Hazardous Substance (CHS) Enforcement Division in February 2012. Due to the unresolved status of the contamination at the property, the CHS Enforcement Division has recommended that the case file for this property be referred to the MDE Brownfields/Site Assessment Section for further investigation.

