



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: MARYLAND ASSEMBLIES

Site Location

Maryland Assemblies (MDASM) is a roughly 65-acre property located north of Port Deposit, Cecil County, Maryland. The MDASM site is located in the 600 block of Dr. Jack Road on the north side of the road just west of its intersection with Burlin Road. The plant operations occurred on the property located at 103 and 107 Remington Road, also north of Dr. Jack Road. These properties are identified on the Cecil County tax map 0023, parcel 0518, lots 45 and 46 and comprise approximately 33 acres.

Site History

The historic record for the property goes back to 1845 when Theodore S. Marshall transferred the property to Madison Rowland. The property has principally been residential agricultural since the 1800s. The property remained in individual/family ownership until it was purchased by Maryland Assemblies in 1957.

Maryland Assemblies operated on the property from 1957 through 1974. The parcel that once contained Maryland Assemblies was subdivided into several parcels as referenced in the sale to Stephen Porter in 1974. Powderidge, Inc. in 1980 again subdivided these parcels into 47 smaller parcels. Powderidge, Inc. developed the majority of the properties in the subdivision; transfer of the developed parcels ranged primarily from August 1980 through December 1981. The main thoroughfare for the community is Remington Court. Powderidge is a defunct corporation; the corporate charter, #D01004423, was forfeited prior to 2005.

MSASM began operation as a munitions manufacturing company prior to 1957. Throughout its operational history, the site was owned and operated by MDASM. The site closed its Maryland operation in 1974 and moved to Perry, Florida. The 68-acre site of the MDASM has been subdivided into numerous parcels and developed into a complex of single family homes.

Environmental Investigation and Action

In May 2009, MDE conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the site that identified a housing development on the property formerly owned by MDASM. Two of these residences are located over the remains of the historic munitions manufacturing plant. The residence at 103 Remington Road is constructed on the foundation of one of the Maryland Assemblies' factory



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buildings and its occupant is the only primary target as all of the other residences are greater than 200 feet from the operational area. Several bunkers and remnants of a burn pit and kick-out area and disposal trench were also identified.

In January 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed an Aerial Photographic Analysis of the Maryland Assemblies site that identified an assembly of revetted buildings and structures, ground scars, a dry impoundment and several remote small buildings within the operational area.

In December 2010, MDE conducted a Site Inspection (SI) that identified several bunkers and areas of elevated metals contamination. The SI recommended an unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance followed by further characterization of the contamination from past operations.

In March 2013, EPA's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc., began initial UXO assessment of the revetments, bunkers and ground scars identified in the Aerial Photographic Analysis report. A total of (58) M500A1 MTSQ fuze components, (1) 40mm casing, (2) unknown caps and (1) unknown spoon were identified.

In May 2013, EPA began intrusive UXO and geophysical investigations. A final round of intrusive UXO investigation was conducted in April 2014. The June 2014 Final Trip Report by Weston Solutions, Inc. identified numerous M500A1 MTSQ fuse components. All were either deformed or scarred due to intense heat and deemed to be materials documented as safe.

In March 2015, MDE conducted an Expanded Site Inspection that targeted three bunker areas, three potential disposal areas, two trenches, a burn pit area and its kick out area. Low levels of explosives were identified in pond sediment samples. Elevated levels of antimony were identified at 306 mg/kg in a surface soil sample and at 152 mg/kg in the subsurface soil at a discrete bunker location. MDE recommended further delineation and removal of antimony contaminated soil at that location.

Current Status

The MDE September 2015 ESI report is under review by EPA.

