



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Newell Enterprises

Site Description

This inactive 13.4-acre property, a former metal recycling facility, is located at 18604 Leslie Drive, Hagerstown, Washington County. It is situated in the northeast corner of the Early Industrial Park and is surrounded by agricultural lands to the north and east and a rail spur along the western property boundary. Private residences are located approximately 0.5 mile north of the property.

Improvements on the property include an office and mechanical shop building, a warehouse, an open-sided aluminum shed, a truck scale, and three single-story manufacturing buildings that house heavy equipment formerly utilized in the metal recycling process.

The nearest surface-water body is Antietam Creek, located approximately 0.75 mile east of the property. Surface water runoff flows easterly, towards an unlined seepage pond located at the rear of the property. The groundwater flow pattern beneath the property is complex due to the cavernous karst aquifer system. The property is located in a groundwater use area with numerous domestic and agricultural wells within a 0.5-mile radius.

Site History

From the late-1940s until February 1976, the property was privately owned and used for agricultural purposes. In 1977, Newell Enterprises leased the property, constructed the metal recycling facility and began operations. In August 1985, Newell Enterprises purchased the property and metal recycling operations continued until the facility closed in 1999. The primary purpose of the operations at the recycling facility was to recover aluminum.

Environmental Investigations

In April 1990, a Preliminary Assessment, performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) concluded that soil, sediment, groundwater, and water in the seepage pond were impacted by past waste disposal practices. Surface water, soil and sediments contained elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, mercury, and cadmium.



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In June 1993, MDE conducted a Focused Site Inspection that confirmed previous sampling results. Sampling results indicated that contaminants of toxicological concern were not present in off-site residential wells. In May 1999, a Site Survey, performed by MDE recommended additional investigation of controlled hazardous substances to delineate the extent of the environmental impact from past operations.

In January 2001, the MDE conducted an Expanded Site Inspection, which confirmed that on-site contaminants had not impacted off-site residential wells. The principal contaminants of concern included bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, PCBs, and metals (chromium, copper, manganese, arsenic, and beryllium). The toxicological evaluation identified potential non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risks associated with exposure to multiple contaminants under a future commercial use scenario.

Current Status

On May 1, 2002, Newell Enterprises, Inc. submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program application for the property, seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as a responsible person. Based on the results of the Expanded Site Inspection toxicological evaluation, Newell Enterprises developed an Interim Removal Measure (IRM) work plan to characterize and dispose of sludge stockpiles, and sediments in the recirculation tanks and the seepage pond. Newell Enterprises completed removal of the sludge stockpiles under the IRM and on January 20, 2006, withdrew its IRM request in order to complete the remedial activities under an approved Response Action Plan (RAP). The property was accepted into the VCP on February 2, 2006 and a proposed RAP was submitted to the Department on March 22, 2006. A public information meeting for the proposed RAP was held on April 6, 2006 and the RAP was approved on June 21, 2006.

The RAP was implemented to the satisfaction of the VCP and on April 30, 2009 a Certificate of Completion (COC) was issued. The COC provides for restricted industrial use of the property with certain requirements for excavation and disposal of soil from the property and a restriction prohibiting the use of groundwater beneath the property for any purpose. The COC is recorded in the Land Records at Liber 3664, Folio 0485.

