



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: BFI QUARANTINE ROAD SITE

Site Location

The Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) Quarantine Road Landfill is located at 5901 Quarantine Road, near the tip of Marley Neck in Baltimore City. It is bordered on the west by SCM Quarantine Road Landfill, on the south by Interstate 695 and on the east and north by the CSX Railroad. The Coordinates for the site are latitude 39.206659° North and longitude -76.552621° West. The site is approximately 31 acres and has been inactive since 1979.

Site History

The BFI Landfill and the adjacent SCM Landfill were originally part of an 85-acre site that had been used as an open dump for industrial, hazardous, and municipal wastes since the 1930s. BFI purchased 31-acres of the original dump site in 1973. From 1973 to 1979, BFI used the site primarily to landfill SCM's chemical sludge wastes. These wastes consisted of industrial, municipal, and designated hazardous substance wastes, including acids, caustics, inorganic and organic sludges, mixed chemical sludges, inorganic and organic solids, and mixed chemical solids. Leachate generated from the landfill was originally collected in a leachate collection basin, neutralized, solidified, and disposed in the landfill. In the fall of 1979, BFI stopped accepting wastes at the landfill, and began grading and revegetating the area. Final clay-capping and revegetation of the landfill was done in the fall of 1984.

Environmental Investigation and Action

In January 1980, the Maryland Water Resources Administration ordered BFI to construct a leachate collection and treatment system. A Preliminary Assessment (PA)/Site Inspection (SI) conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 1980 determined that hazardous wastes found in surface leachate were entering Curtis Creek.

In August 1980, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (MD DHMH) ordered the completion of a leachate collection and treatment system. This system was not cost effective and dismantled by BFI in 1983 and 1984.

In September 1983, NUS Corporation conducted a SI. At this time, groundwater, surface water, sediment, and leachate samples were collected. The sampling results indicated



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that the groundwater beneath the BFI Quarantine Road site was contaminated with low to moderate levels of cyanide, arsenic, and other organic and inorganic compounds.

The site was last inspected by the Maryland Department of the Environment Solid Waste Enforcement Branch in February or March of 1985. At the time of the inspection, there were no evident leachate seeps.

Current Status

Leachate is presently collected and removed from the landfill and taken off-site for treatment and disposal. Based on the 1987 SI, the U.S. EPA recommended that BFI be given No Further Remedial Action Planned status under CERCLA.



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