



Facts About...

Bald Friar Quarry Site
State Master List Site (MD-592)

Site Location

The Bald Friar Quarry Naturally Occurring Asbestos site is situated on a 100.18-acre parcel located off Camp Shadowbrook Road in Conowingo, in rural north western Cecil County, Maryland on the Cecil County tax map 8 and is identified as parcel 55. The site is a former open pit mine now filled with water. The center of the site is at 39° 41' 59.20" north latitude and -76° 11' 38.76" west longitude.

Site History

MDE records indicate that the Deland Mining Company opened the quarry sometime after 1928. This opening was more than 100 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet high at its upper face. Quarrying ceased sometime prior to 1954 when the property was donated to the Girl Scouts of America for use as an outdoor retreat. The site is now known as Camp Shadowbrook and hosts up to 200 Girl Scout campers plus support personnel.

Environmental Investigations

A July 2005 USGS Open-File Report 2005-1189 (later revised in March 2006) identified natural asbestos occurrences at twenty-two sites in Maryland. In response, the March 2010 MDE Naturally Occurring Asbestos Initiative Report was conducted to document the present day conditions of the twenty-two sites and assess the need for future pre-remedial investigations to assess potential exposures. That report ranked the Bald Friar Quarry site as a Level 1 priority site for further investigation due to the potential exposure of NOA to the sensitive populations that utilize the site.

In March 2011, MDE conducted a Site Inspection of the former Bald Friar Quarry site to determine if NOA is present in the surface soils, surface water and sediments on site and is a potential threat to recreational users. Although this investigation identified elevated levels of metals in the soil and sediments and, as a result, elevated risks associated with exposures to these media, metals naturally occur in this area at these concentrations. Although tremolite asbestos was identified in the soils and sediments on site, it was identified at levels below EPA action levels. Therefore, MDE is not recommending further investigation of naturally occurring asbestos at this site at this time.

Current Status

The draft March 2011 MDE Site Inspection Report is currently under review.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at 410 537-3440.

Last Update: October, 2011

