



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: UNITED RIGGING AND HAULING

Site Location

The United Rigging and Hauling site (URH) site is located at 6701 Ammendale Road in Beltsville, Prince George's County. The ten acre site is found on the Prince George's County tax map 13 and is identified as parcel K.

Site History

United Rigging and Hauling Company (URH) is a rigging and hauling operation that started in 1970. The company stored large equipment and occasionally acquired, stored and stockpiled more than 700 transformers in two different locations in haphazard fashion with no measures in place to prevent or control spills.

Environmental Investigations

In early May 1985, the Prince George's County Health Department received an anonymous complaint regarding an oil release into an adjacent unnamed tributary of nearby Indian Creek. A sample collected by the County from an oil-filled storm water drainage culvert identified polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at 235 parts per million (ppm). The County immediately referred the site to the State of Maryland's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration. Maryland's Hazardous Waste Strike Force obtained a search warrant and collected multiple samples from transformers and on- and off-site soils. Preliminary data identified PCB concentrations ranging from 50 to 80 percent in the transformers, contamination of on-site soil up to 55,000 ppm and off-site migration of PCBs in soils up to 2,000 ppm. Due to the immediate threat to public health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered an emergency cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

EPA initiated a PCB cleanup and removal in late May 1985. The remediation was completed on December 23, 1985 and a total of 553 truckloads of PCB-contaminated soil and debris totaling approximately 7,728 cubic yards were removed from the site and sent to Model City, New York for disposal.

In June 1990, NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection (SI) for EPA. PCBs were identified at low concentrations in many of the on-site soil and sediment samples.



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Aroclor 1260 was detected in a sediment sample at the end of a drainage pipe near the fence line at 3.6 ppm. The September 2008 EPA Biological Technical Assistance Group screening benchmark for freshwater sediment is 0.0598 ppm of total PCBs.

On December 12, 2013, MDE collected sediment samples from the adjacent waterway as part of an Expanded Site Inspection of the URH site. The samples were collected in the unnamed tributary of Indian Creek, Indian Creek and Beaverdam Creek just upstream from the confluence with Indian Creek to determine if PCBs were present. No samples were collected on the site itself. Results identified Aroclor 1252 in URH Sed-5 and its field duplicate URH Sed-15 at 0.0944 mg/kg and 0.0934 mg/kg respectively. There were no other PCBs detected in any other sample.

Current Status

The draft April 2014 MDE SI report is currently under review. MDE recommended no further investigation by EPA of PCBs migration off site of URH.



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