



# ***Facts About...***

Country House LLC  
(VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM)

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## **Site Description:**

This 2.08-acre property is located at 15 Cumberland Street in a commercially zoned area of Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland. The property is bordered to the north and east by railroad tracks. South of the property are residential and commercial enterprises, including an assisted living care facility owned by Country House LLC. Bordering the property to the west are commercial buildings, including a printing shop. This western adjacent property is surrounded on three sides by the Country House property.

The nearest surface water bodies, Wills Creek and the North Branch of the Potomac River, are located within one-half mile of the property. Surface water from the property drains to Wills Creek.

## **Site History:**

The site has been occupied since 1921. At that time, a railroad spur ran through the north side of the property to the western adjacent property, which was used as a tannery. Between 1938 and at least 1962, the property was utilized by the railroad for various industrial purposes. The various structures located on the property have included an oil warehouse, oil tanks and automobile garages. By 1972, the various structures located on the property had been removed. The property remains vacant and much of it is unimproved.

## **Environmental Investigations and Actions:**

Mercury contamination in the shallow subsurface soil is the primary environmental concern at the property. Limited Phase II site characterization sampling, conducted in May and July 2003, indicated total mercury levels in shallow subsurface soil samples ranged from 0.015 mg/kg to 5.68 mg/kg. A follow-up investigation, conducted in November 2003, indicated total mercury levels in five soil samples were between 0.099 mg/kg and 0.99 mg/kg. Elemental mercury concentrations in three of the five soil samples from the follow-up investigation reported concentrations between 0.138 mg/kg and 0.400 mg/kg.

In October 2004, excavation activities were conducted on site as part of an approved interim removal measure for the property. At least one foot of mercury contaminated soil was removed from the property and disposed off-site. The soil was sampled and the area was backfilled with clean soil.

## **Current Status:**

On January 13, 2004, Country House, LLC submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as a responsible person. During the review of the application package, the Department determined that the property required the submittal of a Response Action Plan (RAP).



On February 7, 2005, the Department accepted the Country House property into the VCP and requested the development of a proposed RAP in order to address potential risks associated with the property. The proposed RAP was submitted to the Department on April 15, 2005. A public informational meeting to discuss the proposed RAP was held on June 2, 2005, and the proposed RAP was approved by the Department on August 24, 2005. An addendum to the approved RAP was accepted by the Department on February 26, 2007, which revised the dates for implementing the approved RAP and the location of the new building being built at the property. The approved RAP and addendum are currently being implemented.

**Contact:**

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

**Last Update:** June 2008