



Facts About...

Croom/Brandywine Launch Site
(MD-228)

Site Location

The Croom/Brandywine Launch was located at Candy Hill Road, Naylor, Prince George's County, Maryland, 20772. The geographic coordinates for the site are 038 degrees 42 minutes 27.63 seconds north latitude by 076 degrees 45 minutes 54.53 seconds east longitude. The Maryland grid coordinates are 318,700 north by 867,300 east.

Site History

In the early years of the Cold War, the United States Army set up a battery of Nike missile defense systems around 40 major cities. The typical Nike base consisted of a launch area and a fire control area. The launch area contained the facilities and equipment required to assemble, test and maintain the missiles and associated launch mechanisms.

Normal operations at a Nike launch facility included the use and on-site disposal of solvents, fuels, battery acids, hydraulic fluids, paints and other materials necessary to support the mission. Contaminants normally associated with a Nike launch site include petroleum compounds, carbon tetrachloride and associated degreasing agents, red fuming nitric acid, lead based paints, asbestos containing materials, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides and heavy metals.

The Croom/Brandywine Nike Launch Facility operated from 1955 through 1962 at the location off Candy Hill Road near Naylor, Maryland. Early reports list the site as Brandywine Launch; however more recently the site has been referenced as the Croom Launch W-36. This has led to some confusion between the Croom Launch W-36 site located in Naylor, Maryland and Croom Launch W-35 site located in Croom, Maryland. This report references the site as Croom/Brandywine. Following base closure in 1962, the site was turned over to the Maryland Center for Youth and Development. This was part of the Edgemere School, a privately operated school for difficult youth. After the Edgemere School was dissolved, the site was auctioned and passed through several hands until it was eventually purchased by John Brinkley, the current owner.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has investigated the site under the formerly used defense site (FUDS) initiative. Portions of the site were remediated under USACE oversight. Well sampling in the vicinity of the Croom/Brandywine site revealed trace amounts of methylene chloride in on-site monitoring wells. Samples collected from surrounding residential wells during the same survey were found to be clean.

Environmental Investigations

Between 1985 and 2005, five environmental assessments were conducted at the facility.

- MDE Preliminary Assessment of Brandywine Launch – 1986
- USACE Work Plan for Site Investigation – 1998
- USACE Data Summary Former Missile Battery Croom Nike W-36 – 1999
- USACE Evaluation of Former Nike Sites – 2004
- USACE CON-HTRW Closure Report - 2008



In 2008 a contractor for USACE performed a partial remediation of the site silos. Asbestos Containing Material (ACM), hydraulic fluid, and lead painted surfaces were addressed during this effort. Standing water was pumped out of the silos, ACM was removed, hydraulic fluid was drained from equipment and lead painted surfaces were sealed with a proprietary lead paint sealant.

Current Status

USACE has no further plans for remediation of the site.

Future Activity

MDE has submitted a Preliminary Assessment of the site to EPA for review. MDE recommends that no further action be taken relative to this Nike site.

Contact

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

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