



Facts About...

Kate Wagner Landfill (MD-322)
(State Master List Site)

Site Location

The eight-acre Kate Wagner Landfill is located on a 98.5-acre parcel owned by Alfred Barnes. The site is situated south of Westminster in Carroll County, southeast of the intersection of Chapel Road and Old Westminster Road and south of the intersection of Old Westminster Road and Kate Wagner Road. Entry to the landfill is gained through the driveway entrance at the site owner's property at 1205 Old Westminster Road.

Site History

The property has belonged to the Barnes family since 1899 and is believed to have been used primarily for farm and grazing purposes until January 1965, when Carroll County leased a portion of the estate for the purpose of disposing non-toxic materials until its closure in 1973. However, it is known that two operators utilized the site as a repository for domestic refuse for the area, including the town of Westminster. The landfill, a former iron quarry excavated to about 40' to 100' below grade, was not permitted and did not utilize any type of containment system.

In 1964, the Director of Public Roads denied Shipley Transfer, Inc. further use of the Kate Wagner Landfill because the wash water from tank trucks to be disposed there could have been toxic.

In 1965, the Director also notified Black & Decker Manufacturing Company that the landfill could not accept unlimited amounts of waste products. During this time, the Carroll County Civic Association complained about the unlawful burning of trash and disposal of alkaline paint residue into the landfill.

In December 1983, the Carroll County Director of Public Works informed the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) of a leachate seep from the landfill. Samples collected from the leachate revealed low levels of cadmium, chromium, and lead. Further observations at the site revealed an area with numerous crevasses and holes, possibly allowing decomposition gases to escape.

Environmental Investigations

In March 1984, the DHMH requested that Carroll County contract to evaluate the extent of the contamination at the landfill.

In 1986 and 1987, residential wells in the vicinity of the site were sampled by the Carroll County Health Department (CCHD) and analyzed by DHMH. No contaminants were found at levels of potential toxicological concern.

In May 1988, a Carroll County Water Resources Study by R. E. Wright Associates Inc. recommended that the Kate Wagner Landfill should be remediated due to the potential threat to groundwater.



In June 1989, MDE completed a *Preliminary Assessment* and recommended a high priority site inspection be performed due to the groundwater contamination. Previous studies indicated groundwater contamination from volatile organic compounds (VOCs), hydrocarbons and heavy metals.

In June 1992, MDE completed a *Screening Site Inspection* that indicated elevated levels of metals in the sediments and soils and levels of solvent concentrations in the groundwater above Maximum Contaminant Levels.

In September 1994, MDE completed an *Expanded Site Inspection* and named the groundwater pathway as the primary pathway of concern. Fifteen groundwater samples were collected including five samples from on-site monitoring wells and ten samples from nearby residential wells. The analytical results detected 12 organic chemicals in the monitoring wells; six exceeded the EPA benchmark for tap water. No organic contamination above EPA benchmarks was detected in any of the residential wells. One of five soil samples collected revealed one organic contaminant, Arochlor 1254, above EPA benchmark levels for residential soil. Of the five sediment and five surface water samples collected, chloroform and arsenic were the only contaminants detected in above EPA benchmarks for residential soil.

In September 1996, Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. completed an *Existing Conditions Report* of the Kate Wagner Landfill for the Carroll County Office of Environmental Services that recommended further characterization of groundwater, a soil vapor survey and a fracture trace analysis be conducted at the site.

In November 1996, R. E. Wright Associates, Inc. completed a *Hydrological Assessment of Section III, Rolling Ridge Subdivision* to evaluate potential groundwater threats posed by the Kate Wagner Landfill on a proposed 20-unit development. The report indicated that it appears unlikely that potential groundwater contaminants leaching from the Landfill would migrate to the development as a result of domestic pumping effects.

In May 1997, Carroll County agreed to implement a groundwater-monitoring program that, at a minimum, was to have consisted of six rounds of biannual sampling.

In November 1997, Geo-Technology Associates, Inc., contracted by Carroll County to conducted the first round of sampling and recommended a soil gas survey in the vicinity of the MW-5 to MW-1A locations.

In May 1998, Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. conducted the second round of biannual sampling and in July 1998, completed a soil gas survey that revealed a potential “hot spot” of VOC contamination near the MW-5 location. The groundwater-monitoring program was then suspended by Carroll County.

In January 2003, Carroll County resumed the groundwater-monitoring program at the Kate Wagner Landfill. Elevated levels of VOCs, including breakdown products, continued to be detected on site with no evidence of off site migration

In February 2006, Carroll County collected soil samples in the vicinity of the “hot spot.” Analytical results did not identify VOC contamination.

In December 2007, the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) completed a Site Evaluation report that included the EPA recommended natural attenuation screening modeling program BIOCHLOR[®]. The conclusions of the report revealed that VOC dechlorination is occurring on site with no current or projected off site migration of hazardous wastes to nearby domestic wells.

Current Status

Based on the results of the groundwater monitoring program and the Site Evaluation report and the fact that Carroll County has purchased the former landfill restricting development there, MDE has no further requirements for the investigation of hazardous wastes at this site and plans to transfer it to the State's list of "Formerly Investigated Sites."

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