

**MD-01
Harford County**

Early 1940s	Aberdeen site used for town dump.
1969	Aberdeen Dump closed.
1979	Site listed on the Eckhardt Report.
1982	Aberdeen WWTP, built on part of the dump-site became operational.
1983	<i>Preliminary Assessment</i> completed.
1986	<i>Site Inspection</i> completed. NFRAP recommended.

**ABERDEEN DUMP SITE
Aberdeen, Maryland**

Site Location

The Aberdeen Dump site is located on Post Road, approximately 1,000 feet southeast of Michael Lane in Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland. The size of the dump area is approximately 2 acres. The former dumpsite is situated adjacent to the Aberdeen Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), which was constructed in the early 1980s. The treatment plant was partially built on the dump site. The southern edge of the site is not easily defined since the WWTP was built here. The northern edge of the site consists of a steep slope down into the woods. Access to the Aberdeen Dump is partially controlled by a fence.

The Aberdeen Dump site is situated on the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province, approximately 2 to 4 miles southeast of the Fall Line and the Piedmont Upland Physiographic Province. Topography in the site area is characterized as gently rolling to flat. The site is drained principally by Swan Creek approximately 1,200 feet downstream. Mullins Landfill lies across Swan Creek from the site. Two tributaries flow around the site. One tributary is just west and the other is just east of the site. It is expected that any surface runoff from the site would drain into the tributary east of the site. Both tributaries discharge into Swan Creek. The area is marshy where Swan Creek turns into the Susquehanna Flats. The effluent from the WWTP is discharged into a Swan Creek tributary located on the eastern boundary.

Site History

Ownership of the Aberdeen Dump site prior to the 1940s is unknown. From at least the early 1940s until the present, the town of Aberdeen has owned the property. According to the Maryland Office of Taxation and Assessment, the dump site is part of a parcel of land totaling 14 acres.

From the early 1940s until 1969, the town of Aberdeen used the Aberdeen Dump for the disposal of municipal trash and refuse. Unauthorized dumping also occurred. Uncontrolled, open burning occurred 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the entire existence of the operation to reduce the volume of waste entering the dump site. Dumping and burning ceased and the facility was closed in 1969. The site remained unused until the early 1980s when the Aberdeen WWTP was constructed immediately adjacent to and partially covering the former dump. Prior to construction of the WWTP's chlorination plant, the site was covered with three to six feet of clean fill and seeded. The WWTP became operational in 1982. A portion of the old facility was used to store WWTP sludge until it was taken to a permitted farm for land application.

According to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) files, the American Cyanamid Corporation in Havre de Grace reported taking 100 tons of waste, possibly containing heavy metals, resins, elastomers, amines, amides, imides, and asbestos to the site from 1963 to 1968. In addition, the company reported disposing of empty sacks that contained residues of strontium chromate and arsenic trisulfide at the Aberdeen Dump.

Environmental Investigations

The Aberdeen Dump site was listed in the 1979 *Waste Disposal Site Survey* prepared by The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (The Eckhardt Report).

In 1984, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Waste Management Administration conducted a *Preliminary Assessment*, which qualified the site as a medium priority and recommended that

further site investigation be done. The inspection revealed lead in sediment samples from the tributaries and ponded water and cyanide in adjacent stream samples.

In 1986, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a *Site Inspection* of the former dump site. Samples were collected from on-site soils, nearby surface water, and residential wells in the area. The toxicological evaluation summary in the Site Inspection noted that lead was detected in one residential well at a concentration of 68 micrograms per liter (ug/l). Since no monitoring wells existed on the site, the source could not be identified. Surface water samples showed elevated levels of zinc (60 ug/l) and mercury (0.22 ug/l). Sediment samples from depressions in the dump indicated that lead concentrations (290 milligrams per kilogram, mg/kg) were elevated. Pesticides such as dieldrin (4.3 ug/kg) and DDT (3.9 ug/kg), and cyanide (94 mg/kg) were also elevated in the sediment samples. The Site Inspection summary indicated that downstream pesticide levels were comparable to background stream samples. A low Hazard Ranking Score led to the site classification of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP).

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of NFRAP. The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

Arthur O'Connell, Chief	Site Assessment/State Superfund Division Maryland Department of the Environment	410-537-3493
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