

**Armco, Inc., Baltimore Works (MD-106)**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**

**Site Description**

The 14-acre site is located in a mixed industrial/residential area of southeast Baltimore City and is situated just east of the Armco Inc., Baltimore Works plant at 3501 E. Biddle Street. A drainage ditch that parallels Conrail railroad tracks forms the northeast border of the site. Chase Street borders the site to the south. The majority of the site is open field that slopes to the north and northeast and is overgrown with grass. Trees and thick brush are established on the northern and western borders. The entire perimeter of the site is fenced. Surface water runoff is expected to discharge to the drainage ditch, which diverts the runoff to the Baltimore City storm sewer system. An unnamed tributary of Herring Run lies approximately ten feet to the north of the site and is not expected to be impacted by surface water discharging from the site.

**Environmental Concerns**

Armco Inc. used the site as an unlined and unpermitted landfill for construction debris and steel fabrication wastes prior to 1957 until 1976. Armco Inc. representatives estimate that approximately 300,000 cubic feet of construction debris and 300,000 cubic feet of steel-process wastes were landfilled at the site. Operational procedures for the landfill are unknown. The site was covered with four to six inches of soil and revegetated in 1980. Conditions at the site have not changed.

**Environmental Investigations**

In June 1985, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene completed a Preliminary Assessment that indicated the landfill operated for an unknown period of time prior to 1957 until 1976. Construction rubble was dumped in the western half of the landfill and steel fabrication wastes were dumped in the eastern half. The steel fabrication wastes included hazardous emission control dust, acid sludge, caustic sludge, and cyanide plating sludge.

In May 1990, NUS Corporation, Superfund Division, completed a Site Inspection. Six soil and two sediment samples were collected. The analytical results revealed no contamination above health based benchmark levels. The groundwater was not sampled. Monitoring wells do not exist on site, and the surrounding area utilizes Baltimore City municipal supplies.

**Current Status**

For the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the MDE is conducting a site survey of Armco Inc., Baltimore Works. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the

site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA, or no further action be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a “Formerly Investigated Site.”

In August 2000, the Department requested the site owner (AK Asset Management Company) to perform further investigation to check for the presence of groundwater and surface soil contamination at the site. AK Asset performed the additional investigation in February 2002.

Based on the findings from this investigation, the Department determined that no further investigation was necessary so long as the site use remains exclusively non-residential, steps are taken to ensure that the landfill remain covered and inaccessible to human and environmental receptors, and there is no use of the on-site groundwater for any purpose. As an added measure, the Department requested that AK Asset collect three years of annual groundwater monitoring data, using four on-site wells, to fully document the groundwater quality at the site. To date, two years of data have been collected. The last round of sampling will be performed in 2004.

Once the 2004 sampling has been completed and certain land use restrictions placed on the property, and formally recorded in the local land records, the Department expects to change the site’s status to a “formerly investigated site.”