

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (MD-336)
CURTIS BAY DEPOT
Anne Arundel County
(Federal Facility)

Site Description

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Curtis Bay Depot is located approximately one mile to the southeast of Baltimore City in Anne Arundel County. The Depot is one of fifteen depots across the country that are operated by the Defense National Stockpile Center, an agency under the DLA. Curtis Bay Depot covers 483 acres and is bordered by Curtis Creek to the east and Furnace Creek to the south.

The facility maintains storage of strategic materials, including bulk ores, minerals, and metals. Other site occupants include the U.S. Army Reserve, which uses the dock area for maintenance of Army tugboats, and the Baltimore City Police Canine Corps, which uses part of the facility for dog training.

Site History

The site was originally a U.S. Army Depot built in 1918 on 798 acres of farmland and was used for receiving, shipping, and storage of materials and ordnance until the mid-1950s. In the late 1950s, the Defense National Stockpile began storing strategic materials at the Depot. The National Stockpile program had been established in 1946 as an attempt to avoid dependence on foreign sources of essential materials during times of national emergencies. The management of the National Stockpile was divided between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the General Services Administration (GSA).

Between 1958 and 1966, 37 acres of the site were reassigned to the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1966, the remaining acreage was reported excess to the GSA. Several transfers of land to Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Department of Transportation have since reduced the Depot to its current size of 483 acres. In 1988, the management of the Stockpile was transferred to the DLA.

Environmental Investigations

In 1987, a removal action was performed on a burial pit containing thorium nitrate contaminated material and four drums of beryllium oxide. Soil samples were collected although there is no record of groundwater sampling activities. Following the removal action, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) cleared the site for unrestricted use.

Soil samples were taken in 1994 and 1995 to assess potential radiological contamination at Building F-737, which had previously stored monazite sands, a source of natural thorium. Results from all of the samples were within the NRC value for unrestricted access.

In September 1996, following a report of buried medical waste from a former employee, three exploratory trenches uncovered several bottles labeled as dextrose and saline. Some of the bottles were removed and the trenches were backfilled. Two monitoring wells were subsequently installed downgradient of the buried materials.

A Preliminary Assessment report was completed in January 1999, and a Site Inspection report was completed in January 2000. Both documents were submitted to MDE in June 2000. An Expanded Site Investigation report was completed in April 2003 and submitted to MDE in May 2003.

Current Status

The Remedial Investigation (RI) work plan is being prepared, and RI fieldwork is expected to begin by the end of this year.

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