

**MD-281  
Talbot County**

- 1915 Easton Utilities Commission established.
- EUC acquired Private Gas Company in Easton.
- 1973 Emergency Contingency Plan completed.
- 1990 MDE prepared an *Environmental Priorities Initiative/Preliminary Assessment* report and recommended a high priority *Screening Site Inspection*.

**EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION – PLANT NO. 1  
Easton, Maryland**

**Site Location**

Easton Utilities Commission Plant No.1 (EUCP1) comprises an area of approximately 11 acres in Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. Land use in the area is mainly residential with light agricultural in outlying areas. The City of Easton surrounds the plant, which is located at 219 North Washington Street. The site is bounded on the north by a commercial building complex on Marlboro Road, on the east by Washington Street, on the south by Firstman factory and residential housing on Bay Street, and on the west by a bank and an open lot. The site is accessible from U.S. Route 50.

The EUCP1 facility consists of two buildings, an open lot and several unoccupied structures. The first building is in the northeast part of the site and is comprised of 11 diesel alternating current generators, their associated auxiliaries, basement sumps and an office. The second building, a temporary storage area for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) transformers, is on the southern part of the property. All of the oil water separators are situated west of the main building. Two underground storage tanks are southwest of the main building, while the other three are farther to the west. A 300,000-gallon fuel oil aboveground storage tank is north of the PCB-transformer storage warehouse.

**Site History**

The Private Gas Company, a company that provided street lighting beginning in 1817, originally occupied the EUCP1 site. The Easton Utilities Commission was established in 1915 to provide electricity to the town of Easton and surrounding area.

The EUCP1 generates hazardous wastes that consist of spent solvent and transformer oil containing PCBs. The facility has contracted with various treatment, storage and disposal facilities to do all potential clean up and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. In 1973, the company completed an Emergency Contingency Plan. There is no history of regulatory action taken by the County and the State of Maryland.

**Environmental Investigations**

No records regarding waste management practices at the EUCP1 exist before 1980. In December 1989, the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration visited the facility to perform an *Environmental Priorities Initiative/Preliminary Assessment* of the site. The report, completed in February 1990, reported that the facility stated it did not store or treat any type of hazardous wastes, that holding tanks were tested periodically for leaking, and that there had been no signs of leakage from the tanks. The report noted that waste storage and handling areas of the facility were found to be in generally good condition and that waste management practices and handling of waste material at the EUCP1 site appeared to be in compliance with existing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations.

The report noted, however, that the depth to groundwater was 20 feet in the vicinity of EUCP1, area residents relied on groundwater for drinking, and contamination of the resource was likely in the event of a PCB or spent solvent spill. The impact to the public health through drinking water could be significant if contaminants reached the public well field.<sup>1</sup> MDE recommended the site for a high priority *Screening Site Inspection* under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act on the basis of the preliminary evaluation of the situation.

### **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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned. The designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned 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 and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
410-631-3493

---

<sup>1</sup> The city of Easton receives its water from municipal wells. The nearest municipal well to the site is approximately 200 feet.