

MD-244
Baltimore City, Maryland

In 1952, F. Bowie Smith and Son, Inc. purchased the property and began a wood treatment facility.

In 1986, Geraghty and Miller completed a soil and groundwater assessment that revealed significant contamination from wood treatment chemicals.

In 1988, Birchwood Realty purchased the property and site investigation and remediation responsibility was transferred to them.

In 1990, NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection that showed two confined areas of contamination.

In 1994, contaminated soil and wood treatment equipment was removed from the site.

In July 2000, MDE HWED gave approval for the final phase of remediation, geomembrane caps over the two areas of contaminated groundwater. The property owner expects to use the site for corporate parking.

F. Bowie Smith & Son, Inc.
Baltimore, Maryland

Site Location

The ten acre former F. Bowie Smith & Son, Inc. property is located at 4500 E. Lombard Street in an area of Baltimore City, that is shared by industrial, commercial and residential users. CSX Transportation railroad tracks form the west, northwestern and eastern borders of the site. Lombard Street is the southern border of the site.

Site History

From the late 1800s until 1945 the site was used as a stove, bathtub, and sink foundry. The site was converted to an aluminum extrusion plant during World War II, but never became operational because the war ended. Allied Chemicals purchased the property in 1945 and the site remained inactive until 1952 when F. Bowie Smith and Son, Inc. purchased the property and began a wood treatment operation. From 1982 until 1988, part of the site was leased to the Chesapeake Wood Company that sold and stored treated lumber, but did not treat it on site.

The wood treatment process at this facility involved using pressure vessels to saturate wood with the following chemicals:

pentachlorophenol until 1961, fluorochrome arsenate phosphate until 1976, creosote until 1983, and copper chromate arsenate from 1976 until 1988. The facility utilized two concrete collection tanks to capture solution not absorbed during the treatment process. In 1983, a closed treatment system was installed allowing reuse of excess solution.

Environmental Investigations

In 1986, F. Bowie Smith and Son, Inc. hired Geraghty & Miller, Inc. to assess the soil and shallow groundwater conditions at the site as required by the hazardous waste storage closure plan outlined by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Contamination from wood treating chemicals and fuel oil was present in concentrations high enough to require remediation at the site.

In March 1987, DHMH completed a Preliminary Assessment suggesting a comprehensive investigation of the site. In July 1987, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and F. Bowie Smith and Son, Inc. signed a Consent Order requiring the investigation of all sources of contamination, the delineation of the extent and rate of

movement of contamination in the soil and groundwater, an assessment to determine the potential health and environmental impacts, and an evaluation possible remedial actions. When F. Bowie Smith and Sons, Inc. sold the property in 1988, responsibility for completing the investigation and remediation was transferred to Birchwood Realty.

In May 1990 the NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection of the site under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Significant soil and groundwater contamination from wood preserving chemicals was detected primarily in areas where the chemicals were used and stored.

Semi-annual groundwater sampling results have shown little change in the levels of the contamination from the wood preservative constituents since monitoring began in 1990.

Current Status

Under a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA Superfund Program, MDE conducted a site survey of the F. Bowie Smith and Son, Inc. site. The Site Survey evaluates 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."

The MDE's Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division (HWED) has been the lead group working with Birchwood Realty to finalize the remediation process that began in 1989. In July 2000, MDE's HWED gave approval for the final phase of the remediation plan that includes capping two areas (a .15-acre area and a 1.10-acre area) where the groundwater beneath is contaminated. Compacted soil under an approved geomembrane will be covered with a soil cement layer. Birchwood Realty expects the remediation to be completed by the end of Fall 2000 and expects to lease the property for corporate parking.

Contact

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