

Gaithersburg Control Area (MD-223) (W-94)
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Montgomery County

Site Description

The Gaithersburg Control Area is surrounded by single-family residences. It contains former barracks, a mess hall, administration, engine generator, and frequency changer buildings, along with wastewater treatment and disposal areas. The site has been vacant since 1986.

Site History

The Gaithersburg Control was originally part of the Gaithersburg Nike Launch and Control (W-94) area, part of a missile system that was constructed in the continental United States between 1954 and the 1970s. The Control area contained all radar, guidance, electronic, and communication equipment for missile guidance and fire control. The site was owned and operated by the Department of the Army from 1956 to 1962, at which time it was transferred to the Department of the Navy. The site was transferred two more times, to Harry Diamond Laboratories in 1972, and then to Fort George G. Meade in 1979. The site operated as the Army Reserve Center until 1986, at which time the reserve activities were relocated to the Launch Area. In 1988, the site was identified for closure in the Base Realignment and Closures Report. The site was scheduled in 1996 to be transferred to the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission.

Environmental Investigations

A Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) was conducted in 1990. Samples taken during that investigation were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and metals. Four monitoring wells were installed as part of the PA/SI. One well was installed in an upgradient location on the site, whereas the other three were installed downgradient of potential contamination sources. No VOCs, SVOCs, or metals were detected above certified reporting limits in surface water, groundwater, or soil samples. In addition to the sampling efforts, four underground storage tanks, three fuel oil and one gasoline, were removed as part of the 1990 PA/SI.

A Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) Report was completed in April of 1994 and was found acceptable by the State as required under the 1992 CERFA law.

Contact

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