

GENERAL CHEMICAL BALTIMORE TERMINAL
5501 Pennington Avenue
Baltimore City
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Description

This approximately 22-acre property is located near the intersection of Pennington Avenue and Aspen Street in southern Baltimore City. The property consists of two parcels, labeled C and D, that were created in 1982 during the subdivision of a larger property. The site is bordered to the north and east by the Olin Chemical property. Pennington Avenue marks the west border of the site, and a commercial property is located on the opposite side of Pennington Avenue. Cabin Branch Creek borders the site to the south. Surface water bodies within one-half mile of the property include the Cabin Branch Creek and Curtis Bay. Surface water drainage from the property is separated into two storm water systems. The system on the northwest portion of the property discharges to a westward flowing drainage swale adjacent to the railroad spur that bisects the property. The system on the eastern portion of the property connects to a drainpipe that discharges to Cabin Branch Creek on the southeastern portion of the site.

Site History

The former General Chemical property and the adjacent Olin Chemical property have been used for industrial operations since the late 1800s. The facilities were used for fertilizer and pesticide sales and storage. As of 1914, the site was owned and operated by the Standard Guano Company. Operations at the site gradually changed to the production of agricultural chemicals. By 1925, the site had been purchased by the Standard Wholesale Phosphate and Acid Works, which began production of sulfuric acid. The property was purchased on April 1, 1949 by Matheson Chemical, which continued the production of sulfuric acid. Matheson Chemical later changed its name to Olin Matheson and eventually to Olin Chemicals.

On November 5, 1982, Olin Chemicals divided the property into four parcels, A, B, C, and D. Olin retained parcels A and B, which had not been used for sulfuric acid production since the mid-1960s. Parcels C and D, on which sulfuric acid production continued, were sold to the Essex Chemical Corporation. Parcels C and D have been sold three times between 1988 and 1997: by Essex to Dow Chemical in 1988, by Dow to Peridot Chemicals in 1989, and by Peridot to General Chemical in July 1997. General Chemical operated the property as a sulfuric acid and asphalt terminal and transfer facility until January 2003, when the company closed operations.

Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment groundwater and soil sampling was conducted at the site in March 2004. Analysis of these samples showed levels of lead, mercury, and semi-volatile organic compounds above Maryland non-residential soil and groundwater cleanup standards.

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Status

On February 25, 2004, Pennington Partners, LLC submitted an application seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as an inculpable person. The Department is currently reviewing the application package.

Site Contact

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