

HOFMANN LANDFILL
Frostburg, Maryland
(MD-004)

Site Location

The site is located just southeast of Frostburg in Allegany County, Maryland. It is adjacent to and may partially underlie Frostburg Industrial Park on Route 36. The area surrounding the site is empty grassland, which is located between the buildings of the industrial park. Seven buildings are located within 200 feet of the site; two are hotels and one is an apartment building. Several different landowners own the site property and the adjacent properties located to the west.

Site History

The 22-acre site is an inactive former coal strip mine where industrial and municipal wastes were dumped from 1967-1971. Although the site operated as an experimental landfill to determine the feasibility of using abandoned coal strip mines for disposal of solid waste, no State Refuse Disposal Permit was issued. This landfill demonstration was carried out by the Maryland Department of Health and Allegany County. The site was discovered when it was listed on the Eckhardt List in November of 1979.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

A 1980 study by Ecology and Environment involved the collection of monitoring well samples and a sample from the Hofmann Drainage Tunnel (which may drain the Hofmann Landfill). Vinyl chloride (28 µg/L) and nickel (up to 78 µg/L) were detected in the groundwater. Nickel was also found in the Hofmann Drainage Tunnel at 89 µg/L; the presence of nickel was attributed to local strip mining operations. The study also found that early sampling of Braddock Run and the on-site pond by the State showed that levels of iron, chlorides, and total solids were increasing during the Landfill's operation.

A Level III Site Inspection Prioritization (SIP) conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in 1992 indicated that: levels of arsenic, iron, and vinyl chloride were elevated in the groundwater, sediments were found to have low levels of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as well as low levels of 4,4'-DDE and toluene, surface water samples indicated the presence of elevated concentrations of metals (iron, chromium, cobalt, and manganese) and low levels of PAHs and pesticides were found in soil samples.

During a 1994 Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) conducted by MDE, the on-site monitoring well could not be located. However, this sampling event revealed findings consistent with the previous report for the surface water, sediment and soil.

Current Status

Pursuant to the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), MDE conducted a Site Survey of the Hoffman Landfill. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. The Site Survey concluded that MDE has further requirements and that EPA should archive the site.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Suite 625 • Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3493 • 800-633-6101 x3493 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

Planned or Potential Future Action

Facility Contacts

| Contact Name | Contact Organization | Contact Telephone # |
|------------------|--|---------------------|
| Arthur O'Connell | Maryland Department of the Environment Brownfields Assessment/State Superfund Division | 410-537-3493 |

Last Update: August 2000