

Louisa Lane Landfill Charlestown, Maryland

Louisa Lane Landfill is located at the northern end of Louisa Lane, Cecil County. The approximate eight-acre site is located approximately one mile north of Old Philadelphia Road, near Charlestown, Maryland.

Site History

Prior to 1954, the property was utilized for agricultural purposes. In 1954, Mr. Francis Sasser purchased the property and leased it to Cecil County for use as a landfill. Mr. Sasser also acted as the site supervisor of the landfill. According to interviews conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the landfill was primarily used for domestic waste disposal. There are no records of industrial waste being disposed of at this site. In 1972, in response to directives from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Cecil County closed the landfill.

In 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall purchased the property for use as their residence and for agriculture.

Environmental Investigations

In 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a letter from the Charlestown Commissioners regarding the potential that industrial waste may have been dumped in the Louisa Lane Landfill. In response to the letter, the site was placed on the State Master List. As a result, in 1988, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment of the property.

Following the completion of the Preliminary Assessment, the MDE was notified that the City of Charlestown planned to place a water supply well field approximately one mile south of the Louisa Lane Landfill. MDE then worked to complete a more comprehensive assessment of the landfill to determine its potential impact on the planned well field.

In 1989, MDE sampled many of the surrounding residential wells and did not find any evidence that the groundwater had been impacted by the landfill. MDE also conducted seismic and magnetometer surveys of the site and the surrounding area.

In 1990, MDE installed monitoring wells on the site and completed a Screening Site Inspection. The results of the Screening Site Inspection indicated that groundwater at the site had not been adversely impacted by the landfill, and that the landfill did not pose a risk to human health and the environment.

Based on the results of the Screening Site Inspection, EPA granted the No Further Remedial Action Planned designation, and the City of Charlestown completed their well field.

Current Status

Pursuant to the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with EPA, MDE is conducting a site survey of the Louisa Lane Landfill. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess 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 for the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigations 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."

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