

**Mullins Landfill**  
**Aberdeen, Maryland**  
**Harford County**  
**(MD-038)**

### **Site Location**

The 106-acre landfill is located less than one mile south of the Old Post Road residential area of Havre de Grace. The site is at the end of Mullins Road and is bounded by Swan Creek to the south and west. There is also a wetland area to the south and southwest of the site, along Swan Creek.

### **Site History**

The Harford County Department of Public Works has retained ownership of the site since it opened in 1969. Although the projected life expectancy was 15 years, the landfill was closed in December 1976 after expending the available space. Both municipal and industrial wastes were disposed of at this landfill during its operational period.

One of the main generators of industrial waste at this landfill was the American Cyanamid Company of Havre de Grace. According to the Eckhardt report, American Cyanamid Company disposed of approximately 100 tons of heavy metals and organics at this facility.

After the landfill closed in 1976, part of the site was used to stockpile tires prior to use by the Harford County Waste Energy Plant. On August 24, 1995, the tire stockpile caught fire for the second time. Shortly after this event, the tires were removed from the site. The last load of tires was removed from the site in October 1996.

The Mullins Landfill was the only county-operated landfill that had been issued a state permit for operation. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued a permit for operation with an expiration date of December 31, 1976.

In September 1979, the County was cited for storing approximately one million unshredded tires, inadequate maintenance of completed areas due to improper grading and erosion of gullies on the site-slopes and discharging leachate from the flanks of the landfill in an uncontrolled manner. Corrective action to address the large number of exposed unshredded tires began in October 1979. In the ensuing years, a berm was constructed between the landfill and the marsh area to prevent leachate and runoff from entering the marsh and Swan Creek, and all the tires and the fence around the tire recycling area were removed from this facility by October 1996. At that time, the site was regraded and covered with fill to prevent erosion, leachate and ponding water.

### **Environmental Investigations**

Ecology and Environment, Inc. as a subcontractor of NUS Corporation, performed four sampling events at the site between 1980 and 1981. The site inspection report entitled *Site Inspection Using Available Information of Mullins Landfill*, associated with these sampling events, was completed by NUS in 1986. The sample results revealed the presence of lead at a concentration of 160 parts per billion (ppb) in a north side spring sample occasionally used as a drinking water source; heavy metals such as beryllium, cadmium, nickel and zinc in a ponded leachate that was collected on the eastern side of the landfill; benzene, 1,2 dichloroethane and trichloroethane in leachate collected from the western area; and aldrin at a concentration of 19 ppb was detected in runoff from the eastern side of the landfill.

A resampling effort was subsequently performed by NUS in 1985 because both organic and inorganic analyses were not conducted on the samples initially collected. A problem with leaking glassware during shipment also lead to one of the resampling runs. The results of this investigation were included in *A Field Trip Report for Mullins Landfill* completed by NUS in 1988. The laboratory analysis revealed (bis 2-ethylhexyl)phthalate at a concentration of 45 ppb in one residential well and at concentrations ranging from 73 to 1,300 ppb in sediment samples. Elevated concentrations of lead (31 ppb) were detected in on-site sediment samples. Polychlorinated biphenyls (200 ppb) were also identified in sediment samples taken from two of the sediment pipes located on site.

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) performed a *Level I Site Inspection Prioritization Hazard Ranking Prescore of Mullins Landfill* in 1992. Based on the Hazard Ranking System score, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave the site No Further Remedial Action Planned status.

In October 1995, MDE completed a *Expanded Site Inspection of the Mullins Landfill*. The objective of this Expanded Site Inspection was to investigate the threat to human health and the environment posed by the site after the tire fire which took place on August 24, 1995. The laboratory analyses revealed inorganic contamination in surface water and organic and inorganic contamination in soil and sediment samples that did not exceed the current EPA Risk Based Concentrations and/or Water Quality Standard.

### **Current Status**

The *Site Survey of Mullins Landfill*, completed by MDE in 1999, concluded that MDE had further requirements related to the investigation of hazardous waste at this site. MDE further recommended that the site did not warrant further investigation by the EPA and that it be archived by EPA.

### **Contact Person**

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