

**NOBLE FURNITURE REPAIR
Snow Hill, Maryland**

Site Location

The site is located at 5513 Hatchery Lane, in Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland.

Site History

An anonymous tip led to the initiation of a January 25, 1999 inspection by Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous Waste Program. The operation generated spent methylene chloride solvent, paint sludge, & associated wastewater. Waste discharges were terminated on that date as a result of a Site Complaint issued by the MDE hazardous waste inspector. The inspection revealed disposal of spent solvent/paint stripping sludge on the ground surface by dumping and by discharge by pipe from a wastewater container. The operator was Otis Elmer Jones, who later died on September 13, 2000. Operation of the Noble Furniture Repair terminated as a result of Mr. Jones' death. At the time of the first inspection, he had allegedly been operating the business for one year. The owner of the property itself was Milton Bruce Matthews.

Environmental Investigations

On June 23, 1999, MDE issued a Consent Order to Mr. Jones and Mr. Matthews for violations of Maryland Laws and regulations regarding discharges and disposal of CHS and Water Pollution Control. In December of 1999, Mr. Matthews contracted an environmental consultant. The initial assessment, which consisted of the installation of several temporary shallow groundwater monitoring points, revealed methylene chloride contamination in groundwater (120 ppb) in the source area in excess of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Consequently, MDE required further assessment of the site.

In December of 2000, MDE issued another Consent Order, which required that one shallow groundwater monitoring well be installed in the source area. Mr. Matthews agreed to let MDE sample for at least 4 quarters and samples were analyzed by MDE, with results provided results to Mr. Matthews. Based on the monitoring results, a determination would be made by MDE as to whether further action was necessary. All CHS would also have to be removed from the site and properly disposed of. The monitoring well was installed under the oversight of MDE personnel.

Once the well was installed, at least two groundwater monitoring events occurred. No contamination was detected in the groundwater. Based on these results, MDE determined in 2002 that monitoring could be terminated and the well could be abandoned.

Current Status

All product and CHS was removed from the site as of November of 2002. The only other operations occurring at the site were a woodworking shop and a part-time lawnmower repair business. MDE determined the site to be in compliance at that time.

Contact

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