

## **W.L. GORE (LEFT BANK) SITE (MD-303) Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland**

### ***Site Location***

Property consists of approximately seven acres located in the Trinco Industrial Park, near the junction of Routes 279 and 545 in Elkton, Maryland. Situated north of the confluence of Dogwood Run and Little Elk Creek, the property includes a warehouse, a paved parking area, lawn areas and a wooded area. Directly adjacent to Little Elk Creek, the majority of the wooded area, which is topographically lower than the rest of the site (about 10 to 20 feet), lies within the Little Elk Creek floodplain. The former industrial dumpsite, covering approximately two acres, is located within the wooded area on the north bank of Little Elk Creek (also referred to as the "left bank"). Other commercial and industrial properties surround the site.

### ***Site History***

The Trinco Industrial Park property has been used for industrial operations since the 1940s. Through 1947, the property was used, owned and operated by Triumph Explosives for the manufacture of military ordnance. After World War II, the old munitions plant was demolished and the materials from the plant were deposited as fill in the area along the Little Elk Creek. In 1947, the property was purchased by The Elkton Company (later known as Trinco Industrial Park) who used property for light industry and warehousing. Historical records indicated that in 1968 and 1969, waste from Galaxy Chemical was disposed of at the property. In addition to the chemical waste, other waste and construction debris were disposed in the area along Little Elk Creek. In 1972, the property was sold to General Tire and Rubber Company, and in 1983, W.L. Gore purchased the property.

### ***Environmental Investigations***

The former dumpsite was first identified in 1983 by a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene inspector who was investigating another site within the Trinco Industrial Park. Samples collected from a small spring during the initial visit revealed elevated levels of potentially carcinogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). As a result, the site was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). However, since other adjacent sites were under investigation at the time and there was no residential use of groundwater in the area, the site was not further investigated until the late 1980s.

In 1988, W.L. Gore conducted a preliminary assessment of the property. Trenches dug near the waste disposal area revealed dark stained soils and tar materials. Laboratory analysis indicated elevated levels of VOCs. During 1989 and 1990, additional investigations were conducted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). It was concluded that the disposal area is a source of groundwater contamination in the area and that contaminants may bio-accumulate in fish and wildlife that inhabit the creeks and rivers in the vicinity and through direct exposure. In October 1991, during removal of scrap tires from the property, workers uncovered seven 55-gallon drums. MDE personnel conducted a limited removal action of the drums located on the surface. Beneath the drums, MDE discovered solid and liquid substances emitting solvent odors in the soils. Laboratory analysis of the soil indicated high concentrations of volatile hydrocarbons. A work plan was developed and a Removal Action (RA) of the source material was completed at the property in 1997. In 2003, MDE Federal Superfund Division conducted a Brownfields Assessment at the property. Shallow and deep soil samples as well as four shallow groundwater samples were collected across the property. Based on this investigation it was confirmed that VOCs continue to be present within the soils along the Little Elk Creek flood plain. In addition, VOCs are also present within the groundwater above acceptable levels based upon MDE Cleanup criteria for Type I and II aquifers.

### ***Current Status***

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has

reached the same conclusion concerning future investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

**Contact**

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