

**MD-299  
Dorchester County**

1969	Dorchester County acquired the property for use as a landfill.
1972	Landfill opened and was permitted.
1973	A citizen's complaint brought the landfill to the attention of DHMH.
1974	DHMH began conducting routine inspections at the site.
1980	Three monitoring wells were installed and were sampled annually until 1991.
1989	Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration conducted a Preliminary Assessment and recommended a high priority Site Inspection.  MDE prepared a Consent Order for construction of a new landfill.
1991	EPA conducted a site inspection.

**BEULAH LANDFILL  
Beulah, Maryland**

**Site Location**

The Beulah Landfill is located east of Maryland Route 16, approximately ½ mile southeast of the community of Beulah and 15 to 20 miles east of the town of Cambridge in Dorchester County, Maryland. The site is midway between the towns of Preston and Hurlock. The landfill occupies approximately 44 acres of permitted fill area on a 210-acre property. The property is bounded by Gravel Run, a perennial stream, 25 to 200 feet to the north and by agricultural land on the other three sides.

**Site History**

Dora J. Gallagher owned the Beulah Landfill property until her death in August 1968, at which time interest in the parcel passed to her daughters. The property was called the Gallagher farm in the 1950s and was used as farmland until 1969. In June 1969, the Dorchester County Commissioners acquired the parcel for use as a landfill. Ownership prior to the 1950s is not known.

The landfill, opened in May 1972, was an old-style cut-and-fill operation with no containment. The landfill was first permitted on May 26, 1972 under Refuse Disposal Permit No. 72-09-12-03A. In 1982, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's

(DHMH) Solid Waste Division issued permit No. 82-09-12-03A. In 1985, the Solid Waste Division extended the permit from 1982 to 1987. In November 1987, the Solid Waste Division issued Refuse Disposal Permit No. 87-09-12-03A, with an expiration date of November 2, 1990.

The active landfill area was approximately 1,250 feet by 1,500 feet by 20 feet deep and was located in the southeastern part of the site. The site consisted of an active landfill area, a drainage ditch leading to a sediment pond, an old gravel pit, and a partially covered tire dump. An on-site maintenance facility and office building were located east of the gravel pit. The landfill accepted domestic solid wastes, sewage sludge, cannery wastes, solvent distillery sludges, waste oils, and waste industrial solvents.

**Environmental Investigations**

The Beulah Landfill first came to the attention of the DHMH from reports in 1973 that the facility accepted sewage sludge and a citizen's subsequent complaint. Beginning in 1974, the DHMH conducted routine inspections at the site. The inspections revealed numerous permit violations including open burning, inadequate landfill supervision and odor problems related to sludge dumping.

In December 1980, the Dorchester County Department of Health installed three monitoring wells at the landfill in response to a request from the State. The wells were sampled annually between 1980 and circa 1991, although the levels of contaminants were not significantly high when compared to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels for drinking water. Although not observed in 1984, toluene was detected in one of the wells in 1985 at a concentration of 58 parts per billion and in 1986 at a concentration of 920 parts per billion. Other volatile organic compounds were also detected in this well.

In August 1989, the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration conducted a *Preliminary Assessment* of the site. The Preliminary Assessment report recommended a high priority Site Inspection, additional downgradient monitoring wells, and more

frequent monitoring. MDE also recommended against extending the landfill permit and prepared a Consent Order for construction of a new landfill.

In January 1991, the EPA conducted a site inspection of the facility. During the inspection, 21 aqueous and 7 solid samples were collected for analysis. The on-site monitoring wells exhibited three organic solvents and two metals at concentrations above the background sample. The downstream sediment samples exhibited concentrations of two semi-volatile organic compounds and three metals at concentrations above the background sample.

### ***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 the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned. The designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

### ***Facility Contact***

Arthur O'Connell, Chief      Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund      410-537-3493  
Division  
Maryland Department of the Environment