



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I

Site Location

The Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I, is situated at 735-737 Bachmans Valley Road, Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland 21158. The dump site is approximately one acre and is located on properties currently owned by Suzanne Badgett Workman and Erik M. Hershan. Prior to 2002 the dump site was entirely on the property at 737 Bachmans Valley Road (Workman), but the property was subdivided that year and currently the dump site is located on both 735 and 737 Bachmans Valley Road. The site is separate from the Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location II (MD-0467), which is located three miles northeast at 1920 Bachmans Valley Road. No state permit was issued for these landfills.

Site History

The Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I, is located in an old iron quarry, which was abandoned at the beginning of the 1900s. After the iron quarry was abandoned, it was converted to a landfill in the late 1940s or early 1950s. This privately owned and non-permitted landfill was active until 1968. The total quantity and the nature of wastes placed in the old quarry are unknown. Both dumping and open burning of waste occurred at this landfill.

Environmental Investigations

In 1990, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) performed a *Preliminary Assessment (PA) for the Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I*. The report addressed the unpermitted dumping practices which occurred at the site from the late 1940s or early 1950s until 1968 when the landfill was closed. The PA recommended that a medium priority Screening Site Inspection (SSI) be conducted.

A *Site Screening Inspection for the Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I*, was performed by MDE in 1991. The 1991 sampling revealed pesticides in soil samples and organic contamination in groundwater samples collected from both an on-site and off-site residential well. However, follow-up samples were unable to confirm the presence of contaminants in either well. Nevertheless, the toxicological screening using the reported levels detected in soil and groundwater samples did not exceed the Maximum



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Contaminant Levels for groundwater or the Risk Based Concentrations (April 1998) for soil. Based on this information, it was concluded that the contamination at this site did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

The *Site Survey of Bachmans Valley Landfill, Location I*, completed by MDE in 1999, concluded that the site be considered for further investigation under the federal Superfund program due to the potential that groundwater used for drinking could be contaminated with metals.

Current Status

An Expanded Site Inspection was performed at the site in May 2009. Surface and subsurface soils, surface water and sediments and groundwater samples were collected and analyzed for total and dissolved metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and PCBs. Arsenic was identified at levels below the MCL in two groundwater samples collected from residential wells near the dump area. However, it is uncertain whether the presence of arsenic in the groundwater is a result of the landfill. The toxicological evaluation identified potential risk concerns associated with the ingestion of soils around the site. At this time no further actions have been planned for the site.



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