



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: BARE HILLS QUARRIES AND PITS

Site Location

The Bare Hills quarries and pits Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) site is centered near the intersection of Falls Road and Old Pimlico Road. The area of interest is comprised of portions of four parcels on Baltimore County tax map 69: parcel 951 (5.11 acres), approximately 1.9 acres of parcel 952, approximately 1.5 acres of parcel 966, and approximately 7 acres of parcel 549 (Robert E. Lee Park) near the intersection of Old Pimlico Road and Falls Road. A former chromite mine is situated on parcel 951 immediately west of the intersection of Coppermine Terrace and Falls Road.

Site History

The Bare Hills serpentine quarries and pits were made up of two quarries (a copper mine along Smith Avenue and a chromite mine off of Falls Road) and numerous small prospect pits near the intersection of Falls Road and Old Pimlico Roads. The area was first worked sometime before 1833. Chrysotile asbestos was identified here in small veins.

Review of select aerial photographs from 1957 through 2008 did not identify any anthropogenic activities on Robert E. Lee Park. Sometime between 1957 and 1964, Old Pimlico Road was extended to Falls Road. The first rendition of the now [approximately](#) 42,000 square-foot Coppermine Fieldhouse appeared on parcel 952 on the 1966 aerial photograph. By 1971, commercial and industrial concerns were operating south of Old Pimlico Road. Sometime between 1993 and 2001, an approximate 34,000 square-foot outdoor recreation complex was constructed on parcel 951. The areas surrounding the Coppermine Fieldhouse remained fallow.

Environmental Investigations

Bare Hills Quarries and Pits was placed in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) on April 17, 2013 as a result of MDE's January 28, 2012 pre-CERCLIS screening letter report. EPA approved MDE's Preliminary Assessment/Sampling and Analysis Plan on May 5, 2012 to characterize potential impacts of NOA that were identified at a former quarrying site that was first worked sometime prior to 1833. The property owner did not grant MDE's access to the site. There have been no known environmental investigations at the Bare Hills site.

Current Status

The site remains on CERCLIS as a potentially contaminated property.



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