



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: DAVIDSONVILLE NIKE LAUNCH

Site Location

The Davidsonville Launch site is located in Anne Arundel County at 3737 Elmer F. Hagner Lane, Davidsonville, Maryland. The 25.02-acre property is located 1/2 mile east of the intersection of Elmer F. Hagner Lane and Wayson Road.

Site History

The Department of Defense acquired the property in 1954 for the operation of a Nike missile battery (W-25). The Nike battery operated Ajax and later Hercules missiles until the battery was deactivated in the late 1960s. The missiles were stored in two subsurface concrete magazines. In 1976 the property was transferred to Anne Arundel County for use as a police training facility. The training facility remains in operation on the property.

Environmental Investigations And Actions

In 1985, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waste Management Administration conducted a Preliminary Assessment of the site. In 1986, the Army Corps of Engineers contracted with Donohue and Associates, Inc. to perform environmental studies of a number of former Nike missile bases, including the subject site. In the course of this investigation, three monitoring wells were installed and sampled, and soil and water samples were obtained. The results indicated contamination of groundwater with arsenic, barium, and silver at levels below Maximum Contamination Levels (MCLs), and contamination of soil with petroleum hydrocarbons, tetrachloroethene, and lead at levels below Risk Based Concentrations (RBCs).

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) sampled the three on-site monitoring wells and the on-site water supply well in 1987, and had the samples analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). No VOCs were detected at that time.

In 1992, Halliburton NUS was hired by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a Site Inspection of the property, including sampling and analysis of groundwater from the monitoring wells. Analysis of the groundwater samples indicated the presence of tetrachloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, phenol, and arsenic at levels below MCLs. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and metals were also detected in the soil, surface water, and sediment at levels below RBCs.



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Based on this information, EPA gave the site No Further Remedial Action (NFA) Planned status in 1992. As part of an initiative to re-evaluate NFA sites, MDE conducted a Site Survey Initiative (SSI) in 1999. This SSI confirmed the previous conclusion that the site should be considered NFA under the Pre-Remedial Program.

In the 2007 – 2008 timeframe, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a project closeout for several former Nike sites in Maryland. For the Davidsonville Launch site, this included the disposal of seven rusting 55-gallon drums (which contained soil cuttings from monitoring well installation), closure of three monitoring wells (two were left in place for use by USGS), removal and disposal of 150 gallons of hydraulic fluid and the removal of about 3,600 liters of asbestos. While lead paint removal and abatement were conducted at the other Nike sites, it was not conducted at Davidsonville. In 2007, the Federal Facilities Division of MDE notified the USACE that the limited nature of the lead paint removal and abatement could leave lead paint in place with the potential for leaching.

In August 2013 the Land Restoration Program, Site Assessment section visited the site and collected four soil and one groundwater sample for laboratory analysis. Sampling was conducted in response to reports of concerns of hazardous substance contamination from the current occupants of the property, the Anne Arundel County Police Academy. The analytical results from the soil sampling detected arsenic at a maximum concentration of 12.365 ppm, which exceeds the non-residential screening level of 1.9 ppm. No other metals or VOCs were detected in the soil samples above risk based screening levels. In November 2013 an additional sampling event was conducted. Four surface soil samples were collected for analysis of semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Benzo(a)pyrene was detected in one of the four soil samples collected at 780 ug/kg, which exceeded the non-residential screening level of 390 ug/kg. No other SVOCs were detected in soil samples above non-residential risk based screening levels.

A follow up site inspection was completed by the Air and Radiation Management Program in August 2013. Screening for radiation was completed using a RadEye B20-ER and an ICX Radiation Identifier 2. Two former Nike silos, a water catchment basin and an agricultural shed were screened. No radiation readings above background equivalent were noted. The interior and exterior of the silos and shed were screened.

Current Status

Given the site's current use as a training facility, and unless there is a significant change in the use of the property, MDE has no active involvement with the site.



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