



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: RING LANDFILL SITE

Site Location

The site of the historic Ring Landfill is on James Ring Road 1.5 miles off Md. Route 361 in Westover, Somerset County. The site is south of Princess Anne and west of Pocomoke City. Coordinates for the site are latitude 38° 7.249' North and longitude 075° 44.003' West.

Site History

The Ring Landfill, sometimes identified as Westover/Ring Landfill, is an inactive, 32.5-acre site that accepted household garbage, commercial solid wastes, brush and wood (which were burned daily), old tires, seasonal agricultural by-product waste, industrial waste, and empty agricultural chemical containers.

The site operated as an open burning dump prior to landfill operations which began on December 15, 1975. During its operation, Ring was the only municipal landfill servicing Somerset County. The site exceeded its permitted capacity in 1987. MDE issued an order allowing the County to extend the landfill vertically and requiring the County to construct a new facility. The County constructed a new facility adjacent to Ring and began to use it in early 1998.

Prior to this site being used as an open burning dump and landfill, the site was an undeveloped grass and woodland belonging to the James Ring Farm.

Background

Several organic primary pollutants, including aromatics, ketones, and chlorinated compounds, were measured in on-site drainage and leachate samples. These included vinyl chloride, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene. Elevated levels of inorganics, including iron, boron, and nickel were also reported.

Some organics observed in surface water samples, including toluene and ketones, were identified in on-site monitoring well samples at concentrations that would suggest site-related degradation of groundwater. A number of inorganics, including zinc, lead, iron, boron, aluminum, and manganese, were also elevated.



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Environmental Investigation and Action

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (later MDE) monitored groundwater conditions at the Ring Landfill site from 1976 through 1991.

In 1982 MDE conducted a Preliminary Assessment of the site. The report concluded that there was possible impact to water quality due to landfill leachate.

In 1984, EPA contracted NUS to perform a Site Inspection (SI) of the Ring Landfill. The SI included collection of groundwater, leachate, and surface water from drainage ditches. Elevated levels of organics and metals were identified in site samples.

In July 1999 MDE conducted a Site Survey of the Ring Landfill. Based on the survey, MDE determined that the site did not warrant further investigation by EPA and recommended that the site be archived.

Current Status

Ring Landfill ceased operation in 1998 and was closed and capped with an engineered landfill cap that incorporated a landfill gas venting system. The site is fenced and sits adjacent to the current Somerset County Fairmont Road municipal landfill.



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