



Facts About...

Cambridge Town Gas Site
(State Master List Site MD-165)

Site Location

The former Cambridge Town Gas site is comprised of two parcels and is located on Cherry Street in the town of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The parcel on the 0.4 acre western parcel is located at 403 Cherry Street, and the 0.8 acre eastern parcel is located at 402-404 Cherry Street.

Site History

The coal-gas manufacturing plant (MGP) was built on the 402-404 Cherry Street site in the early 1860s. MGP operations ceased at the site in the late 1940s when the use of the facility switched to the storage and distribution of propane. This latter use continued until the 1960s.

The MGP was owned and operated by the Cambridge Gas Company from 1919 until 1948. In 1948, the property was purchased by E.C. Burton, Sr. and sold back to the Cambridge Gas Company in 1951, which merged with the Chesapeake Utilities Corporation in 1986. Delmarva Power and Light (Delmarva) purchased the 402-404 Cherry Street property in 1987. In mid 1998, Delmarva changed its name to Conectiv and in August 2002, Conectiv became a wholly owned subsidiary of Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI). PHI continued use of the entity name Delmarva Power and Light.

Environmental Investigations

In 1985, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) that focused on 403 Cherry Street. Records indicate that approximately six inches of tar-like sludge was identified at the bottom of the gas holder. In the mid 1990s through 2001, several investigations conducted by MDE, EPA, Delmarva and others identified coal tar on the former MGP site and on the adjacent Todd's Seafood property to the north and in the adjacent sediments of Cambridge Creek. In December 1997 through June 1998, Delmarva removed approximately 500 tons of hazardous waste concrete, brick, soil and other debris from the former MGP site.

In June 2004, Conectiv entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with MDE to conduct a Remedial Investigation and a Feasibility Study.

By August 18, 2008, approximately 7,163.24 tons of coal tar impacted creek sediment and 5,000 tons of soil was removed from the Delmarva and Todd Seafood properties and disposed at the New Beulah Landfill in Dorchester County. On March 23, 2009, environmental covenants, including prohibition of groundwater use, notice to MDE prior to construction or excavations and proper disposal of any groundwater or soil removed from the site, were added to the 402-404 Cherry Street deed.

Current Status

In April 2009, MDE issued a No Further Action letter to Delmarva certifying completion of the ACO requirements. MDE will continue to monitor the sediments in Cambridge harbor to document improvement over time and to ensure the chosen remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Contact Person

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