



Facts About...

Maryland Cork
(Non-Master List)

Site Location

The 20-acre site is located in the Trinco Industrial Park, located off of Blue Ball Road in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. The industrial park currently contains various industrial businesses including Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (ATK), a company that manufactures rocket fuel.

Site History

The Maryland Cork (MC) site was originally part of the Triumph Explosives operation that produced arms during World War II in the 1940s. The facility now occupied by MC was used to manufacture and test hand grenades. In 1947, the site was purchased by Maryland Cork, a producer of natural cork products which has been in operation at this location since the purchase.

Environmental Investigations

Investigations of adjacent sites included the *Little Elk Creek Investigation*, the *Perchlorate Investigation* and the *Residential Well Investigation* (2000). Data obtained from those investigations indicated that there was a potential contaminant plume in groundwater beneath the MC site. The *Site Inspection of the Maryland Cork Site* was performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in 2006 to determine if a contaminant plume existed in groundwater beneath the site and to assist in the location of proposed monitoring wells for the site. The investigation was performed using a Membrane Interface Probe Sampling (MIPS) system that samples and analyzes soil gas in real time. The results of the MIPS survey indicated that there is a contaminant plume that most likely originates within the MC site. An Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) was conducted by the MDE in 2007. Five monitoring wells were installed and sampled in locations around the projected contaminant plume. Soil samples were collected from the suspected source area and a burn pit located north of the source area.

Current Status

The results of the ESI indicate that the contaminant plume detected in earlier studies apparently originates in the subsurface near the location of the building in the center of the property and extends westward toward the ATK property and Little Elk Creek. The movement of the plume follows the apparent flow of groundwater at the site which was determined to be in a westerly direction based on groundwater head measurements. The leading edge (western limits) of the contaminant plume was not detected in groundwater at the property line with ATK. The extent of the plume is apparently contained within the MC property. Results from soil sample analyses indicate that the area around the central building contains contaminants associated with the contaminants identified in groundwater samples including metals and VOCs. The ESI is currently under review by the Environmental Protection Agency which will advise on further activities required at this site.



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