

**FORK LAUNCH (MD-209)**  
**Kingsville, Baltimore County, Maryland**

***Site Location***

The former Fork Launch Control Area (LCA) site consists of approximately 10 acres of land eight miles north of Baltimore on Stockdale Road in Baltimore County. The site is currently occupied by a guardhouse, the former barracks, water tanks, pump house, an acid-neutralization pit, three missile silos, three monitoring wells, and numerous trailers and autos. It is surrounded by a six-foot high chain link fence. The current owner of the site is John Mace.

***Site History***

At one time, the site was part of a nationwide Nike anti-missile system. Nike bases in Maryland were part of the Washington Area Defense System, which was constructed, operated, and deactivated between 1954 and the early 1970s. Obtaining specific histories of individual sites is seldom possible.

In 1954, the United States Government obtained the land for the Fork Nike Launch site from Marie DeVault. The site formerly contained the equipment required to assemble, test, and maintain missiles and associated launchers. According to Mr. Mace, in 1962, the site was deactivated because it was unsuitable for the Hercules missile system that began deployment that year. Between 1962 and 1985, the site was inactive, and the property was still owned by the Federal Government. In 1985, John Mace purchased the property from the Federal Government for \$65,000. For a short time in 1986, the property was leased to the Baltimore County Police Department. Since then, the property has been used by Mr. Mace for breeding horses and goats.

***Environmental Investigations***

Due to past practices at former Nike facilities in general, including the disposal of liquid waste generated during routine operations and deactivation, the possibility exists that unknown quantities of these substances were released into the surrounding environment.

Sampling of the monitoring wells by EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (EA) in 1985 indicated that low levels of VOCs and metals were present in the groundwater (benzene, toluene, xylene, and lead).

Within the period of 1985 to 1986, two wells in the vicinity of the LCA were sampled by Baltimore County Health Department and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). No VOCs were detected in either sample. Later in 1986, 11 domestic wells were sampled for VOCs by the Maryland Waste Management Administration. No VOCs were detected.

In 1987, the State conducted a Preliminary Assessment. No conclusions were made, since EA had not yet finalized its 1985 study of the LCA.

Halliburton NUS conducted a Screening Site Inspection of the site in 1993, and collected monitoring well samples, soil samples, and off-site domestic well samples. Lead was detected in two residential wells (314 µg/l and 128 µg/l) at levels which exceeded its action level of 15 µg/l.

During this study, Mr. Mace indicated that all underground storage tanks that were active during the Nike missile operations were removed prior to his purchase of the site. However, there is no documentation available to support this claim. The locations, sizes, and contents of the tanks are unknown.

***Current Status***

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reached the

same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

***Contact***

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