

**Mil-Spec Fasteners
Hampstead, Maryland
Carroll County
(MD-332)**

Site Location

Mil-Spec Fasteners (Mil-Spec) is located in northeastern Carroll County at 314 Hanover Pike, just south of Hampstead, Maryland. The plant is situated in a predominantly rural setting on 2.8 acres. The current property owner is George Yezulinas. One large warehouse is centrally located on the site. An employee parking lot surrounds the eastern and southern boundaries of the warehouse. The western boundary is grass covered and is to the rear of the warehouse. To the northwest, adjacent to the site, is the Hampstead Baptist Church. A steep three foot bank divides the Mil-Spec property and a ball field on the Hampstead Baptist Church property.

Site History

The Mil-Spec plant, which began operating in 1974, is a warehouse used for the distribution of commercial and industrial fasteners. Plating of the fasteners was contracted out since Mil-Spec did not have chrome plating capabilities at the facility. When the chrome-plated hardware was received at the warehouse, it was cleaned and rinsed with solvents to remove residues of the plating operation. The waste rinsate water was discharged directly to the ground outside the rear building without treatment or containment. This was the facility's practice prior to 1983. After the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) issued Mil-Spec a 1983 Site Complaint ordering the facility to cease discharges, all washing of chrome-plated parts was done at the chrome plating facilities.

Environmental Investigations

The Mil-Spec Fasteners site was first investigated on April 7, 1983 by the DHMH. The investigation was initiated by a complaint issued from Reverend Bert H. Benz of the Hampstead Baptist Church. The complaint stated that discharge from the Mil-Spec warehouse was draining onto the church's property. During the State's inspection of the site, it was apparent that waste water generated from the cleaning of chrome plated parts was being discharged directly onto the ground. Nearby residential well sampling conducted at this time at the Wolf Hill subdivision (MD-307) revealed trichloroethene (TCE) contamination below the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). As a result, Mil-Spec, Black & Decker (MD-370), and Lang's Junkyard (MD-371) were all considered possible sources of the residential well contamination at Wolf Hill.

Samples collected from the discharge pipe indicated that TCE was present at 15 parts per billion (ppb), total xylenes at 25 ppb, methylene chloride at 1.0 ppb, and hexavalent chromium at 160 parts per million (ppm). In addition, a sample collected from the septic tank indicated that TCE was also being discharged to the septic system (TCE was present at 820 ppb). In response to this inspection, the owner of Mil-Spec, George Yale, was issued a Site Complaint ordering him to cease discharges and clean up saturated soil and ponded material, and modify the plant's plumbing. He was not required to act with regard to the septic system. In May 1983, the contaminated soil on the Mil-Spec property and the church property was excavated under the supervision of the State.

On two additional occasions, after soil sampling revealed that some contamination remained, Mil-Spec was required by the State to remove more soil from the discharge area.

On both occasions, Mil-Spec voluntarily complied. By 1985, the excavations were complete. The total depth of excavation had reached approximately six feet in the discharge area.

In 1990, the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Pre-Remedial Division conducted a Site Inspection of Mil-Spec. Soil, surface water, sediment and groundwater samples were collected. A soil sample on the property indicated the presence of elevated chromium (up to 449 mg/kg). No significant levels of organic contaminants were found in the soil. However, pesticides were elevated, most likely due to past farming activities.

Groundwater was collected at three domestic wells: the adjacent gas station, Mil-OSpec, and the church well. Although no chlorinated solvents were detected in the groundwater collected for the Site Inspection, low levels of acetone (up to 14 µg/L) were detected. The groundwater sampling indicated that copper (up to 842 µg/L), manganese (up to 65.4 µg/L) and zinc (up to 598 µg/L) were present.

1,4-Dichlorobenzene was detected in the downgradient sediment sample from Mil-Spec. This compound was also detected in the Wolf Hill wells below drinking water standards. However, this compound was not found in the soil at Mil-Spec. Total metals analysis on the surface water collected at the downgradient location indicated that manganese (715 µg/L) was present.

Current Status

Pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), MDE conducted a Site Survey of Mil-Spec. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. The Site Survey concluded that since no federal action is warranted, the State should continue to provide oversight and EPA should "archive" the site. EPA is in concurrence with this determination.

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