

**MD-240**  
**Caroline County, Maryland**

Reliance Wood Preserving Company began operations in 1977.

A 1981 application to store hazardous waste was denied by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene due to poor storage practices.

A Complaint and Order to remove 143 drums of illegally stored hazardous waste was issued on May 5, 1982.

A Preliminary Assessment by MDE was completed July 1987.

A Site Inspection by NUS Corporation was completed on May 10, 1990.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned" on January 23, 1996.

In 1998, the concrete drip pad was renovated and a plastic liner was installed under the pad.

**Reliance Wood Preserving Company**  
**Federalsburg, Maryland**

**Site Location**

The 18-acre Reliance Wood Preserving Company site is located on Industrial Park Drive, Federalsburg, Maryland. The site is generally flat and surrounded by wooded land. A locked gate across Industrial Park Road is the only access restriction to the site.

**Site History**

In 1977, Mr. Daniel Dorman purchased the forested, undeveloped property from the town of Federalsburg and started a wood treatment facility, utilizing a copper chromate arsenate (CCA) process. During the second year of operation, the company experimented with pentachlorophenol wood treatment for six to eight months but abandoned that process and returned to CCA treatment.

In 1998, the concrete drip pad was renovated to meet slope requirements and repair deterioration problems that could have created a pathway for off-site migration of CCA solution. The new larger drip pad, with a surrounding elevated curb, reduced the

amount of debris accumulating in the drip catch pits, thus reducing the amount of waste. A plastic liner installed beneath the pad prevents treatment solution from migrating through the concrete pad and reaching the soil. Contaminated soil under the original pad was removed and sent to a licensed hazardous waste facility.

**Environmental Investigations**

A site visit by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) on June 18, 1981 revealed 143 drums of hazardous waste improperly labeled and stored on site. The company applied for a permit to store hazardous waste but it was denied because of poor storage practices.

On May 5, 1982, a Complaint and Order was issued to Reliance Wood Preserving Company to remove all hazardous waste stored in the drums discovered in June of 1981. In response, the contents of the 143 drums were consolidated into 58 drums that were disposed of off site on July 14, 1982. Surface water samples were collected three times in 1984 in response to complaints and the discovery of discolored surface waters on the site. Arsenic was found at levels just above EPA Risk-Based Concentrations at each sampling. In response to the above activities, the Water Supply Division of the DHMH

on February 27, 1985 sampled Federalsburg municipal well number 6. However, no contamination was found.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) completed a Preliminary Assessment in July 1987 to document information compiled from files, interviews, and on-site visits. Because contamination found in soils and surface waters on site was not detected in ground water, the site was given a low priority with appropriate sampling recommended.

A MDE inspection in May 1989 revealed chrome and arsenic contamination in large puddles of green storm water and stained soils adjacent to the drip pad. The puddled water was transferred to the excess solution storage tank, and the soil was removed.

The NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection, under contract with EPA, in May of 1990. On January 23, 1996, EPA designated the site as “No Further Remedial Action Planned.”

### **Current Status**

For the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with EPA, MDE is conducting a site survey of the Reliance Wood Preserving Company. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action to be taken by EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a “Formerly Investigated Site.”

### **Contact**

Art O’Connell                      Maryland Department of the Environment  
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division  
(410)-631-3493