



# Facts About...

Victory Sparkler (a.k.a Plasticoid Company)  
(State Master List)

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## Site Location

The former Victory Sparkler site (MD-536), now known as the Plasticoid Company is located at 249 W. High Street in a Priority Funding area in a mixed residential, commercial and industrial section of western Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. The site consists of two parcels that comprise approximately 4.62 acres. The larger 4.13-acre Parcel 360 on Tax Map 310 contained the former Victory Sparkler facility and the smaller 0.142-acre Parcel 362, acquired by the Plasticoid Company in February 1968, is open and zoned for parking.

The flat site is situated approximately 30 feet above Mean Sea Level just outside of the Elkton Corporate limits within a large area of southern Elkton that is included in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The site is not located within the 100-year or the 500-year floodplains. The site lies approximately 700 feet from a designated Resource Conservation Area associated with Big Elk Creek. The nearest surface water and wetlands (Big Elk Creek) are located approximately 1,925 feet southeast.

## Site History

Review of the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance map revealed that the site was occupied by the Elkton Canning Company. In 1919, the Victory Sparkler Company bought the property for pyrotechnics manufacturing, handling and storage and operation continued until 1946. The property was then sold to the Plasticoid Company, Inc. and the operations on site switched to the manufacture of rubber components for the medical, pharmaceutical, industrial and diagnostic industries. The manufacturing methods used on the site include compression, transfer and injection molding. Currently, there are approximately 50 employees on site.

## Environmental Investigations

In February 1994, a Phase I Environmental Assessment prepared by PMT & Associates, concluded that based on the review of historical information available, the use, generation, treatment, storage and/or disposal of hazardous wastes had likely occurred on site primarily due to former fireworks manufacturing activities. The Phase I Assessment also identified 19 on-site exterior pad mounted transformers, five of which contained PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in excess of 50 parts per million (ppm) but less than 500 ppm. Incidental oil staining was observed in the parking areas and in some of the production areas on the plant floor.

On June 23, 1987, Site Complaint SC-OV-87-0276 was issued to Plasticoid by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in response to a precision test failure of a 10,000-gallon steel underground storage tank that contained #2 fuel oil. This tank was excavated and removed from the site. Some soil remediation was required. In October 1987 MDE issued a Notice of Compliance and the case was closed. At this same time, a 5,000-gallon heating oil tank was excavated and removed from the site as a result of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning design renovation. No contaminated soils were encountered during the removal of the smaller heating oil tank.



In July 2006, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection of the former Victory Sparkler manufacturing facility that identified elevated levels of arsenic and mercury in the soils on site and elevated levels of mercury and some organic contamination in the groundwater beneath the site. A Toxicological Evaluation conducted by MDE under a commercial use scenario identified slightly elevated risks, primarily from the potential for mercury vapor intrusion in to indoor air.

### **Current Status**

MDE has further requirements for this site and is recommending collection of additional soil near the buildings for mercury analysis and speciation to determine if elemental mercury is present.

### **Contact Person**

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