



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: 68th STREET DUMP

Site Location

The 68th Street Dump site covers approximately 240 acres near Rosedale in Baltimore County, Maryland. The site is comprised of several former disposal and landfill areas. These areas include four sites on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): 68th Street Dump (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises (MD-184), Colgate Pay Dump (MD-176), and R.M. Winstead (MD-133).

The approximate boundaries of the 240-acre site are CSX rail lines to the north, Redhouse Run and Back River to the east, Herring Run and rail lines to the south, and rail lines to the west. I-95 transects the western portion of the site. The site is composed primarily of wooded and open land that has been extensively modified by landfilling operations. Within the sites boundaries are a recycling facility, Baltimore County's Redhouse Run pumping station and sewer line.

Access to the site is unrestricted and trespassers are common. Unauthorized burning and nuisance dumping continue at the site.

Site History

The 68th Street Dump Site was the location of a number of permitted and non-permitted landfills that operated from the late 1940s to the late 1970s. These landfills accepted various types and quantities of industrial, commercial, and municipal wastes, including: solvents, paints, flammable liquids, fly ash, automobile tires, and 55-gallon drums containing heavy metal sludges produced by electroplating processes. Other operations at the site included dumping waste oils and other unidentified wastes into open lagoons, salvaging metal and cardboard containers, incinerating refuse, and spreading incinerator ash from the Baltimore City incinerator.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

Four removal actions of waste materials have been completed at the site. In 1982, approximately 23 drums, some of which contained a powdery sludge, were excavated and transported off site for proper disposal. The second removal action was completed in 1984 after ten 55-gallon drums were identified protruding from a hillside on the portion of the site that is now being leased to the Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc.



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These drums were transported off site for proper disposal. Sampling of the drums prior to their removal revealed that one drum contained paint sludge and the rest were empty. The third removal action was completed in 1985 after a fire occurred on the “island area” portion of the site. Air samples collected by MDE personnel during the fire revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). After the fire was extinguished, over forty 55-gallon drums were discovered protruding from the surface in this area. At the request of MDE, the owner of the site excavated and transported these drums off-site for proper disposal. The “island area” was subsequently covered with two feet of soil, capped with a sewage sludge/soil mixture, and vegetated. In 2008, contaminated surface soils, containers, gas cylinders, empty drums and batteries were removed and disposed off site.

The site has undergone extensive investigation, which has included the collection of samples of soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment. These samples were analyzed for a full range of pollutants in accordance with MDE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) procedures. The latest investigation, a Remedial Investigation, was completed in August 2012. Hazardous substances detected at the site include volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals.

The 68th Street Dump Site was proposed to the EPA’s National Priorities List (NPL) on January 19, 1999. During the public comment period, EPA received extensive comments from one of the original operators and from current property owners at the site. As a result of the questions raised, EPA conducted an extensive sampling event at the site in April and May 2000 to re-evaluate their decision to propose the site to the NPL. EPA re-proposed the site to the NPL on April 30, 2003.

Currently, the EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties (the 68th Street Coalition) have agreed to address the site as a Superfund Alternative Site (SAS) rather than as an NPL site. In accordance with this decision, the site is being addressed in the same manner as if it were listed on the NPL. The SAS process allows portions of the site to be remediated and redeveloped in order to generate funds for the overall project.

Current Status

The Settling Parties have developed a preliminary reuse evaluation, and the ongoing investigation is tied to the six management areas (A – F) identified in the reuse evaluation. The Remedial Investigation was completed in August 2012 and the draft Feasibility Study was submitted. The Feasibility Study evaluates remedial options for consideration by EPA to determine the appropriate cleanup action for the site.



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Planned or Potential Future Action

Once the Feasibility Study is completed, EPA will issue a Proposed Plan for the community to consider. The Proposed Plan will detail EPA's preferred alternative to address the site.



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