



Facts About...

Former Crop Production Service Site (Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Location:

This 2.87-acre property is located at 419 South Cross Street in Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland. The property is the former location of Crop Production Services, a supplier of agricultural chemicals. Located on the waterfront, the property is in a mixed-use residential-agricultural-commercial area, bordered to the north by the Washington College boat house, to the east by Wilmer Park, and to the west by the former Alger Oil property.

Located directly on the Chester River, surface water discharges from the property to the river. Domestic wells are located within one-half mile of the property, indicating that the property is located in a ground water use area. Chestertown provides water and sanitary sewer services for the vicinity, and the property is located in the town's service area.

Site History:

Started by the Hubbard family in the early 1900s, the property was developed and operated as an agricultural chemical supplier. In the 1920s it was known as Massey and Kilbourne Fertilizer Company and in the 1930s as the Peerless Fertilizer Company. The property was sold in 1975 to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation and sold again in 1977 to AGRICO Chemical Company.

In 1983, Crop Production Services purchased the property and in 1995, the buildings were demolished; now all that exists at the property are building foundations and a below-grade truck scale. In 1996, KRM Development Corporation purchased the property and in 2008 they sold the property to Stepne 3 Business Trust.

Environmental Investigations and Actions:

In 1988, Phase I and Phase II site assessments were performed at the property that identified contamination related to the former agricultural operations. The Phase I identified the production and storage of pesticides as a recognized environmental condition and the Phase II site assessment confirmed the presence of pesticides in the soils at the property.

In 1997, the Maryland Department of the Environment performed a second Phase II that identified heavy metals and pesticides in the soil and sediment at the property. The Department made recommendations for additional sampling if the property was to be used exclusively for residential purposes or if extensive soil excavating activities occur.

Additional sampling was conducted in February 2009 as part of the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application. Samples were collected from soil, ground water and sediment for analysis of pesticides, herbicides, semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, heavy metals and cyanide. The sampling indicated that the property was contaminated by toxaphene, arsenic, chromium, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Current Status:

On December 23, 2008, RK Water, LLC submitted a VCP application as an inculpable person seeking a Certificate of Completion (COC) for Tier 1B - Restricted Residential future use of the property. At the time of application, the property was vacant land secured by a chain-link fence. The property was accepted into the program on April 15, 2009, pending the development and completion of a Response Action Plan (RAP) to address contamination in surface and sub-surface soils. On September 17, 2009, WC Water, LLC submitted an application as an inculpable person seeking a COC for Tier 1B - Restricted Residential future use of the property, WC Water was accepted into the VCP on December 16, 2009 pending the development and completion of a RAP.

On October 15, 2010, WC Water, LLC submitted a proposed RAP for the property and scheduled a public meeting on November 15, 2010. The proposed RAP outlines a soil capping remedy with deed restrictions to prevent exposure to the contamination at the property. The RAP was approved on May 16, 2011 with construction scheduled to begin in 2012.

Contact:

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

Last Update: August 9, 2011