



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: RODDY ROAD CORRIDOR

Site Location

The Roddy Road Corridor primarily encompasses the Harbaugh farm east of Roddy Road and north of Apples Church Road in Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland. The study area consists of two unpermitted dumpsites located on the farm. The area is located on the eastern edge of the Town of Thurmont in a mixed-use area that contains industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential development.

Site History

The Roddy Road Farm Dump is the site of a former quarry that was used as the town dump in the 1950s and early 1960s, before Roscoe Harbaugh acquired the property. Files indicate that the property continued to be used for dumping after Mr. Harbaugh purchased it. More recently, it had been the source of complaints from local residents on at least one occasion. In 1987, MDE received a complaint regarding illegal dumping of paint cans, auto parts, waste oil and pesticide containers with residue over a large area. MDE issued Site Complaint SC-0-88-007MWE to the property owner for open dumping. In July 1988, the surface of the site was burned and topsoil was placed over the burned area. The owner stated he intended to bury the remaining waste. By October 1988, the owner had cleaned up the surface waste and debris. In 2001, Mr. Harbaugh stated that this property had also been used by the local dry-cleaner for the disposal of dry-cleaning waste. Other sources have claimed that an area MDE refers to as the Apples Church Farm Dump, also on the Harbaugh property, had been used for this purpose; it is unclear if both or only one of the dumps had been used for the disposal of dry-cleaning waste.

Environmental Investigations

In late 1985, EA Engineering performed a groundwater study in the vicinity of Thurmont's Well #7 when the newly installed well was discovered to be contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE). The study consisted of the sampling and analyses of groundwater samples from production wells in the vicinity of Well #7. Results indicated that the Apples United Church of Christ well and a local spring, both near Well #7, were also contaminated with TCE. In 1995 Earth Data Corp. performed a Fracture Trace Analysis for Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) surrounding the town wells. The survey revealed that the fractures were prevalent in the WHPA surrounding town Well #7. In 1999, the MDE's Water Management Administration performed a Source Water



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Assessment for the Town of Thurmont that identified seven possible sources of the contamination, including the Apples Church Farm Dump, located off of Apples Church Road. In 2001, a MDE State Superfund Assessment of Thurmont Wells #7 and #8 identified two additional potential sources, the Roddy Road Farm Dump and a former furniture refurbisher near Town Well #8. The 2001 assessment included a soil gas survey performed in the Well #7 vicinity to determine the source of contamination. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were not identified in any of the soil gas samples except for one sample taken at the location of the former furniture refinisher where a low concentration of TCE was detected. In 2001, the MDE also initiated a groundwater study of the area which included the sampling and analysis of local residential wells in the vicinity of Town Wells #7 and #8. The results of the sampling indicated that one of the residential wells north of Well #7 contained low levels of VOCs.

Over the course of these investigations, none of the sources which had been accessed (with the exception of the furniture refinisher) showed evidence of being the source of the VOC contamination. Moreover, because the property owner consistently refused MDE access, the only two potential sources which had never been studied were the two dumps located on the Harbaugh property.

In 2009, MDE obtained a warrant to conduct sampling activities at the former quarry/Roddy Road Dump. A Site Inspection was performed in March/April 2009 that included sampling groundwater around the dump site. No TCE was identified in groundwater samples collected from around the dump site. Additionally, the unused residential well at the former furniture refurbisher was sampled as part of the investigation. No TCE was detected in the well.

Current Status

Several residential properties within the corridor continue to have filtering systems for their well water system to mitigate the contaminants found in their water supplies.



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