



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: SALISBURY TOWN GAS SITE

Site Location

The Salisbury Town Gas Light site is located at 520 Commerce Street in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. A mix of commercial and industrial properties, including a former Redhead Station and Trailways Bus Terminal, surrounds the site. A branch of the Wicomico River exists approximately 500 feet south and downgradient of the site. A well field supplying the City of Salisbury exists approximately 2,000' southeast of the site.

Site History

A predecessor of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (CUC), Citizens' Gas Corporation, formerly operated a manufactured gas plant at the site from the 1900s until the 1940s. During operation, some of the coal tar generated was stored on-site in earthen pits. CUC currently uses the site as a natural gas and propane distribution facility.

Environmental Investigation and Action

In 1985, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted a Preliminary Assessment, which concluded that a low priority investigation should be done at the site. About the same time, CUC began site investigation activities and discovered the soil and groundwater had been impacted primarily by benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene and polyaromatic hydrocarbon compounds.

In 1986, CUC conducted a removal action, which included the excavation and disposal of 830 tons of raw coal tar, contaminated soil, building debris, drums, tanks, pipes, brick and concrete.

In approximately 1989, free product (diesel fuel) was discovered at the site during a subsequent study, which included installation of monitoring wells. In 1993, a product recovery system was implemented by CUC.

CUC submitted a plan for groundwater remediation involving Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Extraction (AS/SVE). The AS/SVE system was started in 1996 after approval was obtained from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).



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The groundwater sampling data at the site showed an almost immediate decrease in the concentrations of the on-site contaminants while the system was operational. After running the system for approximately 2 ½ years, groundwater data indicated significantly lower levels of contamination. Consequently, CUC gained MDE approval to shut the system off.

Current Status

In 2002, after MDE granted approval, the AS/SVE system was decommissioned, and wells and underground piping were abandoned. CUC will continue to monitor and remove the free product until only a sheen remains. In 2010 CUC agreed to restrict the property's use to commercial use, restrict groundwater use, and notify MDE before future excavations. These use restrictions have not been recorded in the Wicomico County land records and the site continues to be an open case with ongoing monitoring.



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