



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: SAUER DUMP

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### Site Location

The Sauer Dump site is located in North Point, Baltimore, Maryland on the western bank of the Back River, which flows to the Chesapeake Bay. The northeastern border of the site is Lynhurst Road. Part of the eastern border of the site is formed by a tidal channel that contains wetlands and leads south. West of the site is a marsh which runs from a pond at its northern end south to the Back River and serves as the western and northwestern borders of the site. The Back River forms the southern border of the site. The current owner of the site is the Wittstadt Hunting Club, Inc.

Located just southwest of Stansbury Point, the site is an inactive, privately owned former landfill/dump. The site covers approximately two acres. The site consists of marshy land that was stabilized during the 1950s and 1960s by filling with various materials, primarily plasterboard and inert materials.

### Site History

In April 1984, the Baltimore County Health Department (BCHD), at the request of a prospective developer, conducted a site inspection. At this time, the site was being used as a dump/salvage operation. A large quantity of debris, including auto parts, empty drums and wood and plastic products were found on the surface or partially buried. BCHD ordered the site operator (Mr. Fred Sauer) to clean up the site within 60 days.

Additionally, the site had allegedly been used to store up to 250 drums, which are thought to have contained residual quantities of motor oils and lubricants. These drums were reportedly removed by Mr. Sauer during the summer of 1984. The removal, which was requested by the BCHD, was not supervised by the State or the County. By October 1984, 60 to 70 percent of the cleanup had been completed. The owner apparently had no records of the waste types and quantities disposed of at the site.

### Environmental Investigations and Actions

Since 1984, several sampling events have been conducted at the site by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The sampling results indicated that the soil, sediment, and surface



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water had elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and semi-volatile organic compounds, and, to a lesser extent, pesticides.

In 2001 and 2002, additional sampling was performed as part of a State-lead Remedial Investigation (RI) in order to further delineate the extent of PCB contamination in the soil and sediment. A PCB hot spot (area of exceptionally high concentrations) and a PCB-leaking transformer-like object were discovered during the RI activities. In conjunction with the RI, a Feasibility Study was conducted to determine the best approach to cleaning up the site.

Since environmental regulations mandate that EPA be notified of any remediation involving PCBs, MDE presented EPA with the cleanup plan in June of 2002. As a result of this meeting, PCB congener sampling was conducted, which determined that measureable amounts of PCBs were present in the on-site groundwater and surface water near the site.

In September of 2002, MDE consulted with EPA's Removal Program for assistance in conducting a removal of the hot spot area.

In July 2003, MDE removed the transformer object from the site to an approved PCB-disposal facility. At about that time, the EPA Removal Program began federal oversight on activities at the site, coordinating with a Responsible Party (RP) group, who conducted additional sampling of various media. A fence was erected around the site, plastic membranes placed over hot spots, and erosion barriers installed along the shoreline. Several remedial alternatives were evaluated, from no action to removal of the more contaminated areas and capping. MDE requested listing of the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) when it became apparent that the RP group was unwilling to implement one of the more robust cleanup alternatives. The site was listed on the NPL in 2012.

## **Current Status**

In May of 2014, RI activities were initiated by the RP group under EPA oversight, including test pitting, sediment core sampling for biological assessment, well installation, and the collection of soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater sampling. As a result of recent data usability discussions between EPA and the RP group, additional groundwater sampling will be occurring in January and April of 2015.



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