



Facts About...

South Hilltop Road Dump (MD-586)

Site Location

The 55-acre Simkins Industries property is located at 210 River Road in Catonsville, Maryland. The South Hilltop Road Dump, a closed 5 acre dump/landfill is located in the northeastern portion of the 55 acre site. This dump site is located on a rise immediately north and west of the South Hilltop Road switchback, east of Thistle Road and south of the property boundary between Simkins Industry land and the Patapsco State Park. Geographic Coordinates for the site are 39° 15' 15.95" N latitude and 76° 45' 49.62" W longitude, based on a NAD 83 projection.

Site History

In 1825 the Thistle Manufacturing Company began operating a mill on the Patapsco River; the mill produced cotton fabric for sails. In the 1920s, the mill switched to manufacturing fabric for automobile tires. In 1928, the facility was purchased by Bartgis Brothers Company, a paper product manufacturer, that later became New Haven Board and Carton Co. and Simkins Industries, Inc.

Originally a small town of approximately twenty residences was located near the mill. These buildings have fallen into disrepair and collapsed or been burned by vandals. A small dump is located just north of this residential area. The dump is bound on the north by a historic town cemetery with headstones dated to the early 1800s.

Existing records indicate that from 1952 through the 1980s, the plant operated an unpermitted dump/landfill, which accepted both the plant's industrial waste and municipal waste from nearby citizens. Prior dumping at this site is suspected but not documented.

Environmental Investigations

In August 2003, a complaint alleged that dyes were being disposed of in solid waste roll-off boxes, improper storage of drums of dyes and petroleum products in the basement of the plant, and the existence of a closed illegal dump site. MDE inspected the plant but not the unpermitted dump; the inspection revealed several storage tanks that were either empty or were in the process of being emptied but did not reveal any hazardous waste storage violations. An inspection of the unpermitted dump conducted in September 2003 indicated that there were no signs of active dumping or landfilling, and that there was no leachate, seepage, active runoff or exposed waste. The Report of Observations quoted the maintenance supervisor as stating that the landfill accepted municipal waste from local citizens as well as industrial waste from the facility.

Current Status

The old dump site is located along a power grid right of way. A site visit in 2008 documented significant amounts of thread, fabric and other debris exposed along an intermittent stream drainage pathway.

Contact

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

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