



# Facts About...

Adams Company & Son, Inc.  
(State Master List – MD 321)

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## Site Location

The Adams Company & Son, Inc. site is located in the Northwood Industrial Park at 1801 Northwood Drive in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The surrounding area is commercial. One building housed the offices, shop and storage areas. The site is situated approximately 27 feet above mean sea level outside of the 500-year floodplain in a Priority Funding Area. The site is graded with little vegetation and much of the original topsoil layer has been removed.

## Site History

George Adams purchased the 0.51-acre property in January 1977 from Deer's Head Realty Liquidating Trust. Use of the land prior to 1977 is unknown. Adams Company & Son, Inc. began industrial painting operations on site in 1977. The operation consisted of painting tanks, towers and other industrial materials. Adams Company transported the coatings and materials to the site for painting. Used paint was left with the customer.

## Environmental Investigations

Sometime in early 1988, waste paint was observed on the ground and improperly stored drums were reported at the Adams Company & Son, Inc. site. Interviews with former Adams Co. & Son, Inc. employees by MDE inspectors in July 1988 revealed that approximately 20 drums of waste paint were buried on site in a hole approximately 15 feet wide by 18 feet long and approximately seven to eight feet deep in the northeastern area of the property. These wastes were evidently removed from the site and transported to a property located southeast of Salisbury. The interviews also alleged the use of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) laden oil on site and disposal of waste paint thinners onto the ground next a light pole near the first bay door to the shop section of the building.

MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (HSWMA) issued Site Complaint SC-0-89-100 to Adams Company & Son, Inc. on July 31, 1988. The complaint cited the company for an observed yellow material in the northeast corner of the site that appeared to be paint and for subsurface oil contamination revealed during excavation of what appeared to be an underground storage tank on site. The complaint directed Adams Company & Son, Inc. to fill the excavation with clean fill and to cease and desist all excavations. The complaint further directed that all excavated materials, paint wastes, and tanks were to remain on site until disposal could be properly directed by HSWMA.

On August 11, 1988, Site Complaint SC-0-89-010 was issued to Adams Company & Son, Inc. for the improper removal and disposal of Controlled Hazardous Substances from the property and for disposing of these wastes in an area likely to pollute the waters of the State. The complaint directed the Adams



Company & Son, Inc. to provide security at the Wilkerson property and obtain a contractor to ensure the proper recovery, packaging, labeling and disposal of the hazardous substances disposed of at the Wilkerson property by Adams Company & Son, Inc.

Samples were collected from the drum contents and the stained soil by HSWMA in 1988 for metals and PCBs EP (Extraction Procedure) Toxicity analyses. One soil sample collected from the northeast corner of the site contained chromium at 360 parts per million.

No PCBs were detected in the soil sampling. HSWMA oversaw the removal of approximately 10 to 18 drums of waste paint and an area estimated at less than 5,000 square feet of soil from the northeastern area of the site where the original excavation and elevated level of chromium was located.

On July 24, 1989, the Maryland Attorney General's Office, Environmental Crimes Unit issued criminal indictments against the Adams Company & Son, Inc. that involved improper disposal of hazardous paint related wastes on site. The company was reported cleared from further prosecution in that matter.

In April 1991, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment report of the Adams Company & Son, Inc. property. The site was recommended for No Further Remedial Action Planned under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

On December 23, 1997, MDE issued Mrs. Evelyn Adams a letter in response to her inquiry recommending that she apply to the Voluntary Cleanup Program to characterize the property for potential cleanup activities. No further action had occurred.

In July 1998, RES LLC. purchased the property from Adams Company & Son, Inc.

In July 2000, Concordville, LLC. purchased the property from RES LLC., and converted the site for use as a facility for the distribution of industrial, medical, rare and cryogenic gases for the Keen Gas Company.

In January 2006, MDE made a site visit to determine conditions on site that might indicate the need for additional investigation to determine if the groundwater beneath the site has been impacted by former operation on site.

In June 2007, MDE conducted a Site Inspection (SI). Results of the SI identified only arsenic in soils at levels greater than MDE and/or EPA benchmark standards. Those exceedances however, are lower than the Anticipated Typical Concentration of arsenic in eastern Maryland. Results of the chemical analyses of the groundwater samples identified some inorganic contamination in the unfiltered groundwater samples above MDE and EPA benchmark standards. The MDE Toxicological Evaluation based on the data collected from the SI did not identify risks or potential adverse effects from contamination on site to any commercial population.

## **Current Status**

MDE has no further requirements for the investigation of hazardous wastes at this site at this time and recommends that this site be moved to the list of "Formerly Investigated Sites".

**Contact Person**

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