



# ***Facts About...***

## **Former Contee Sand and Gravel Site (State Master List)**

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### **Site Location**

This former 293-acre sand and gravel mining site is located in Laurel, Prince George's County on Van Dusen Road, which forms the northern border of the site. Interstate 95 forms the western border and Virginia Manor Road runs along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site. The proposed Intercounty Connector, which is currently under construction, will traverse the site and end at Virginia Manor Road. The new road will eventually connect Interstate 270 with I-95 and Maryland Route 1 in Laurel.

### **Site History**

The site was quarried for sand and gravel from approximately 1928 to 1977. Contee Sand and Gravel Inc. ran the mining operation until the site was sold to 1325 G Street Associates LP in 1982. Laurel Sand and Gravel leased the site and continued to mine the site for several more years. 1325 G Street Associates LP changed its name to 1325 G Street Associates LLLP ("G Street") and is the current owner of the site. G Street is currently developing and marketing the site under the name Konterra and Konterra Town Center. The development will ultimately include a mix of residential, retail and business properties when completed.

### **Environmental Investigations**

In 1984, the Waste Management Administration (WAS) received a citizens complaint alleging historical dumping of hazardous waste at lagoons at the former quarry site. This was later corroborated by an inspector for the Prince George's County Health Department who told WAS that in the mid 1970s, on two occasions he had observed tanker trucks disposing of pigment washwater from the Mineral Pigments Corporation (now Rockwood Pigments) into lagoons on the Contee property. In response to the information, MDE performed a site inspection in 1986 and detected high levels of lead in a sediment sample from one of the lagoons identified in the original complaint. Additional information concerning the scope of the dumping was discovered in a Prince George's County zoning case, which provided information concerning haulers and quantities of waste sent to the site.

In March 1988, the NUS Corporation, under contract to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), completed a Site Inspection at the site for ranking purposes under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Samples from the northernmost lagoon showed significant levels of chromium, lead, zinc, and cyanide in the sediments, consistent with the composition of waste pigments. Due to the lack of targets, however, EPA designated the site as No Further Remedial Action Planned under CERCLA and turned the site over to the State for further investigation.

In 1999, MDE conducted a Site Investigation at the site specifically looking for areas where pigment waste was disposed. Based on that investigation and additional work performed by the owner's



consultant, three former lagoon areas were identified and delineated. Another area in the northern portion of the property was identified in 2007 during construction activities.

As part of a settlement between Rockwood Pigments, G Street and former owners of the property, an agreement was signed that apportioned responsibility for the cleanup of the site between the responsible persons. A Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) and a subsequent addendum were submitted by CSI Environmental (“CSI) to the WAS and was approved on March 17, 2009.

### **Current Status**

In March, 2009 CSI initiated the remediation work at the site. CSI removed pigment related material and affected soils from all of the five identified locations and stabilized the site in anticipation of future development. During remediation, additional contaminants were identified in all of the locations which significantly increased the limit of disturbance and the overall volume of hazardous material. The remediation was completed under close supervision of MDE’s CHS Enforcement Division and the site was remediated up to the requisite MDE’s June 2008 Residential Cleanup Standard (RCS) in December, 2009. All of the impacted soil was excavated and stockpiled and characterized into hazardous and non-hazardous material. Approximately 47,041.34 tons of hazardous waste and 6,729.97 tons of non-hazardous waste were generated from the site. All of the hazardous and non-hazardous materials were disposed at approved off site facilities. Extensive post-excavation sampling was done in all the affected areas as well as the staging areas, to confirm the site met with the MDE RCS. A final Remedial Action Report (RAR) was submitted to MDE on Feb 22, 2010. The RAR satisfied the reporting requirement and was approved by MDE on Mar 16, 2010. MDE is currently preparing to issue a no further requirements letter for the project.

### **Contact**

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**Last Update:** March 2010

Please click the following link to view a photographic log covering some performed remedial activities:  
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/Site%20Activity%20Photos-Contee%20Sand%20and%20Gravel%20FS-Mar.pdf>

