



Facts About...

Havre de Grace MGP
(State Master List MD 162)

Site Location

The Havre de Grace (HDG) Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site is located at 907 Revolution Street in Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland. The 9.37-acre site is situated in a mixed-use area of the town near residential, commercial, institutional and industrial properties.

Site History

The HDG site is currently owned by the town of Havre de Grace and is leased to the J. M. Huber Corporation. From 1909 to 1932, the site was used by the Havre de Grace Gas Company to manufacture coal gas. Between 1932 and 1968, the site was used by BGE to store and regulate gas. In the 1980s, the J. M. Huber Corporation leased the site to produce food grade silica products. As of 2008, the production of silica products continues with approximately 100 employees.

Environmental Investigations

The site had been the subject of previous investigations since the mid 1980s (Preliminary Assessment 1985) when J. M. Huber Corporation became interested in purchasing the property. The results of subsequent Site Inspections (1990 Site Inspection, 1995 Level III Site Inspection Prioritization) indicated that there is significant site contamination from products associated with the gas manufacturing process as well as contamination from potential off site sources. Tar-like materials were found in subsurface borings, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in groundwater, and metals and SVOCs were detected in surface soils, some in the athletic field north of the site. It was determined that the monitoring wells were not screened near the bottom of the aquifer and that some contamination might be missed as it sinks to the lower reaches of an aquifer. In 2007 an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) was conducted by MDE that included the installation of deeper monitoring wells. In 2008, a supplemental sampling of surface soils on the athletic field north of the HDG site was completed.

Current Status

In May of 2007, sampling was conducted as part of an ESI. The results of the analyses indicated that groundwater samples contained concentrations of some metals, VOCs and SVOCs that exceeded MDE and EPA benchmarks. Tetrachloroethene was identified at 4.3 ug/l in one surface water sample and its corresponding sediment sample contained levels of mercury that exceeded the NOAA Standard ERM. Arsenic exceeded MDE and EPA benchmarks in all soil samples. Mercury exceeded benchmarks in three of the shallow soil samples and lead exceeded benchmarks in two of the shallow soil samples. SVOCs were identified in most of the soil samples and one sample contained levels of benzo(a)pyrene that exceeded soil benchmarks. For the athletic field, SVOCs were identified in all soil samples. Additionally, arsenic and lead were identified at levels exceeding regulatory benchmarks.



Investigations of other potential sources of the VOCs in the groundwater are ongoing in MDE's Controlled Hazardous Substances Enforcement Division. Preliminary results suggest the presence of at least two significant sources of chlorinated solvents which could be impacting the groundwater and surface water at the HDG site.

Contact Person

Kim Lemaster Maryland Department of the Environment 410-537-3440
Federal Superfund Division

Last updated: November 10, 2008

