

**BRAXTON PROPERTY SITE (MD-460)
Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland**

Site Location

The Braxton property consists of approximately 19 acres of undeveloped, forested land, located south of the intersection of Bush Road and Old Philadelphia Road in Abingdon. The former Bush Valley Landfill (MD-002) is located directly east of the site. Residential properties surround the site.

Site History

Historically, the property has been subject to uncontrolled dumping for an unknown period of time. The illegal dumping intensified after the closure of the Bush Valley Landfill in 1982 or 1983. This open dumping came to the attention of Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Division in 1988. The property owner was notified by MDE that open dumping at the property violated several of Maryland's Environmental statutes. A consent order was issued on April 13, 1989 to clean up the property. Subsequently, the illegally dumped materials were removed.

Environmental Investigations

Environmental investigations in 1990 detected Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater and a soil gas survey of the property indicated that landfill gases were found along the eastern portions of the site. In 1992, as part of the development of an adjacent parcel, an environmental investigation was conducted on the Braxton Property. This investigation detected VOCs in the groundwater. Excavated test pits on the property indicated that the debris on the parcel were primarily limited to surficial nuisance dumping and not landfilling operations.

MDE conducted a Preliminary Assessment of the property in 1993, which recommended a Screening Site Inspection be completed. In 1995 MDE conducted a Screening Site Inspection including sampling of groundwater, soil, surface water and sediment. The inspection found VOCs in the groundwater, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil and sediment, and heavy metals in the surface water. MDE's Toxicological Evaluation concluded that the risk of non-cancer, adverse health effects to future residents is high. This risk was from consumption of drinking water and incidental ingestion of soil. Due to the small waste quantity and low number of receptors the site required no further action in 1995.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning future investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Contact

Art O'Connell, Chief Maryland Department of the Environment (410) 537-3493
Site and Brownfields Assessment / State Superfund Division