



Fork Nike Launch and Control

What You Need to Know

Site Location

The former Fork Nike site is located in Glen Arm and Kingsville, Baltimore County, Maryland.

The 8.83-acre former Control site is located at the end of Hutschenreuter Road in Glen Arm, Maryland, approximately eight miles north of Baltimore. The property is now part of a state forest.

The 17.13-acre former Launch site is located about ½ mile east of the former Control site. The former missile magazines remain visible. The property is owned by the Mace John Hansen.

Site History

The Fork site was a Nike anti-aircraft missile defense battery which operated between 1954 through 1964. The missile defense system was developed and improved during the cold war. The batteries were deployed around the United States from the 1950s through the 1970s. Each battery was comprised of a radar control site and a missile firing site, usually separated by a distance of between ¼ – 1 mile.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

From 1981 to 1986, Baltimore County and Maryland sampled water from residential wells in the vicinity of the site, detecting no significant concentrations of chemicals associated with former Nike sites. In 1987, Maryland completed a Preliminary Assessment of the site, recommending it for a low-priority site inspection.

In 1996, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) completed a Site Inspection (SI) of the former Control site. Samples of groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil were collected. MDE found no contamination as a result of actions at the Control site, and recommended that the federal CERCLA program not pursue further action at the Control site.

EA Engineering evaluated contamination at the former Launch site in 1986, including installing three monitoring wells. Halliburton NUS Corporation conducted a Screening Site Inspection Report in February 1994. Groundwater from three on-site monitoring wells and 5 nearby residential wells were sampled for organic contaminants and metals.

Sampling results of on-site wells included detections of benzene (3 ppb), toluene (4 ppb), xylene (9 ppb), Pb (5.8 ppb), chromium (12.5 ppb), and zinc (49.7 ppb), all of which are below MCLs, or below groundwater risk-based screening levels, if no MCL has been set. No other organic compounds (including volatile organic compounds) were detected. Two off-site wells had lead detections higher than the EPA action level of 15 ppb (314 ppb and 128 ppb). The EPA investigated the matter, and in a letter dated May 12, 1994, the EPA found no connection between lead levels in the wells and Department of Defense actions (no volatile organic



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compounds were detected in the off-site monitoring well, and no monitoring wells on the former Launch site showed elevated lead concentrations).

Soil sampling found that PCBs were the only organic contaminant detected. However, risk from the soil ingestion related to PCBs was determined to be below the action level set by EPA.

The monitoring wells were abandoned in accordance with COMAR in September 1995.

Current Status/Planned or Potential Future Action

EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned. There are no further actions planned for this site.