

FORMER SOUTHERN CAN COMPANY
Baltimore, Baltimore City, Maryland

Site Location

The Former Southern Can Company is located at 3500 East Biddle Street in the eastern portion of Baltimore City, Maryland, approximately five blocks east of the intersection of East Biddle Street and Edison Highway.

Site History

Continental Can Company purchased the property from Southern Can Company in 1928, which presumably continued canning operations. In 1976, the property was sold to Second Biddle Associates. In 1977, the property was sold to the State of Maryland. The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore purchased the property in 1989. In May 1999, the property was purchased by Doracon Contracting, Inc.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

In September 1993, Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. completed a Phase I Site Assessment, which included a visual inspection of the property and a historical record review. A preliminary subsurface investigation was also conducted to determine the suitability of the site for building construction. However, no environmental sampling was conducted at this time.

In May 1996, Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. conducted environmental sampling of the site. Soil and groundwater samples were collected and analyzed for organics and inorganics. Three semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and two metals were detected at levels that constituted a possible contamination issue at the site.

In October 1996, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) completed a Brownfields Assessment of the property. Twelve soil samples and one sediment sample were collected. SVOC contamination was present above screening levels, as well as arsenic, beryllium and lead. Lead was detected in one sample at the northeast corner of the property at a level exceeding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency removal levels.

Because of the high lead level detected during the Brownfields Assessment, MDE completed a Lead Delineation study in January 1998. Most of the soil samples collected during this event typically contained black fill with no odor and rubble. One sample, collected in the vicinity of the high lead level, had a strong petroleum/gasoline odor. The odor was initially attributed to leaded gasoline and that this was the source of the high lead level in the previous sampling event. However, the lead levels detected during this sampling event were not significant. The inability to reproduce high lead results in this area indicated that the original high lead level was an anomaly or very localized.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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