

**MD-47
Wicomico County**

**GRIGCO WASTE OIL SITE
Sharptown, Maryland**

1974-1979	Site used as refining and storage facility for waste oil.
1979-1980	Emergency Removal Action by the U.S. Coast Guard.
1979	EPA assessed civil penalty for Grigco failure to implement Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan. Grigco appealed and lost.
1980	Grigco waste oil site closed. Sharptown Investments acquired the property.
1981	Sharptown removed 125 truckloads of contaminated soil. MDE issued Complaint and Order C-0-82-002. Sharptown appealed.
1982	Hearing officer ruled further testing by MDE at owner's expense.
1992	Level II Site Inspection Prioritization performed. MDE recommended No Further Action.
1999	MDE prepared Expanded Site Inspection Sampling Plan. MDE performed sampling at facility.
2000	MDE recommended No Further Remedial Action under CERCLA.

Site Location

The Grigco Waste Oil site is located at 500 Water Street, Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The 2.04-acre site is situated on the south bank of the Nanticoke River, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Access to Sharptown is from State Route 313, north of U.S. Route 50. The town is about 14 miles north-northeast of Salisbury and 1 mile west of the Delaware State line.

Site History

The Grigco Waste Oil Site was owned by Mr. William Grigsby who operated the facility from 1974 to 1979 as a refining and storage facility for waste oil. During that time up to 39 aboveground storage tanks set on concrete pads were located on the property. The tanks held an assortment of oils containing benzene, xylene, cyclohexane, toluene, styrene, pesticides, insecticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls. A large brick building located on the southern end of the property once served as the boiler house for oil refining operations. By the end of 1979, the Grigco Waste Oil Corporation was bankrupt. The Grigco Waste Oil site was completely closed by March 8, 1980. In October 1980, Sharptown Investments acquired the former Grigco property through a tax sale.

Environmental Investigations

In July 1979, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) received a request for assistance at the Grigco Waste Oil Facility from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The following month, the USCG and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Technical Assistance Team conducted an assessment of the property, including sampling and identifying the contents of the 39 tanks. Fifty percent of the tanks were empty or less than ¼ full. Secondary containment, such as diking, was determined to be insufficient and five of the tanks were leaking. An Emergency Removal Action by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1979-1980 removed an estimated 173,540 gallons of oil and oil-related products from the Grigco Waste Oil Facility. At the time of the removal action, the property was in receivership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. The site was placed on EPA's Comprehensive

Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Inventory System (CERCLIS) of potential hazardous waste sites.

In November 1979, EPA assessed a civil penalty to Grigco Waste Oil, Inc. for failure to implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan for the facility. The penalty was appealed by Grigco in December 1979, who claimed that the property was no longer in their possession. Grigco lost the case.

In the Spring of 1981, the owner of Sharptown Investments reportedly excavated and removed 125 truckloads of contaminated soil and transported them to a Wicomico County landfill. On April 16, 1981, representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Waste Management Administration, Office of Environmental Programs (OEP), collected samples from standing water in the excavated area and also from the soils. The polychlorinated biphenyl, Arochlor-1260, was detected at a concentration of 115 parts per million (ppm) in the water sample and at more than 56 ppm in the soil sample. On September 30, 1981, OEP issued a Complaint and Order No. C-0-82-002 against Sharptown Investments alleging that the corporation maintained a designated hazardous substance storage site

without a state-issued permit. Sharptown Investments appealed the penalty, and a hearing was held in September. The hearing officer ruled that further testing should be conducted on the property by OEP, at the owner's expense.

In June 1992, the MDE completed a Level II Site Inspection Prioritization of the former Grigco Waste Oil site, using existing data. MDE recommended the Grigco site for No Further Action under CERCLA, although they suggested that a final determination be made following a site visit.

On November 20, 1998, MDE's Waste Management Administration stated its intentions to conduct a site assessment to determine the necessity of further environmental investigation or remediation. An *Expanded Site Inspection Sampling Plan* was prepared in January 1999. The goal of the *Expanded Site Inspection* was to evaluate the potential for release of hazardous waste from the site through soil, air, groundwater, and surface water, and to evaluate the populations and sensitive environments that might be affected by any releases. The scope of the ESI included a review of the available file information, a target survey, site reconnaissance, and sampling under the Contract Laboratory Program.

In March 1999, staff from MDE's Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division collected samples from on- and off-site groundwater, soils, surface water and sediments, and released the *Expanded Site Inspection for the Grigco Waste Oil Site MD-47, Final Report* in March 2000.

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 EPA's 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 further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

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