



Woodlawn Landfill

What You Need to Know

Site Location

The Woodlawn Landfill site is situated on a 37-acre property in western Cecil County, Maryland, approximately one-half mile north of the town of Woodlawn, and one mile north of the intersection of Routes 275 and 276 (Maryland Tax Map #23, Parcel 267).

Site History

The landfill was created in a former sand and gravel quarry. The quarry operated during the 1950s. In 1960, the property was purchased by Cecil County for use as a County landfill. From 1960 to 1978, agricultural, municipal, and industrial wastes were reportedly disposed and sometimes burned at the site.

From 1966 to 1978, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. disposed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sludge at the site. In 1978 the landfill was closed to municipal waste under State order. However, under the terms of an Industrial Waste Disposal Permit, the State allowed the company to continue disposal of the PVC sludge, but required them to implement a groundwater monitoring program. In 1981, the groundwater monitoring program detected vinyl chloride and other organic compounds at the landfill. Further disposal was ceased at that time.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

EPA proposed the site for the National Priorities List (NPL) on January 22, 1987 and placed it on the NPL on July 22, 1987.

Vinyl chloride and manganese were the most commonly detected and widely distributed groundwater contaminants at the site and were determined to be the greatest sources of carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risk, respectively.

The aquifer in the area of the site serves as the sole source for residential drinking water. However, contamination from the site impacts only a small fraction of the aquifer in an area where there are no drinking water wells.

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in 1993 that specified an engineered, impermeable landfill cap and groundwater treatment. During the remedy design, it was determined that the groundwater was attenuating naturally. Therefore, EPA issued a ROD Amendment on September 29, 1999 to change the remedy to a vegetated soil cover that would allow some infiltration and monitored natural attenuation for groundwater. The vegetative cover was completed in 2001 and long-term operation and maintenance of the site is ongoing. In addition, the remedy was modified to include development of a wildlife habitat on the site.

Since the construction of the cover, the concentrations of VOCs in the groundwater have significantly decreased. In the latest groundwater sampling, tetrachloroethene was detected



Woodlawn Landfill

What You Need to Know

in one on-site monitoring well (1.0 µg/L) and vinyl chloride in two on-site monitoring wells (4.0 and 3.3 µg/L). Manganese is still detected in all on-site wells (0.36 – 7,240 µg/L).

Current Status

The site is now a Wildlife Habitat called "New Beginnings, the Woodlawn Wildlife Habitat Area." It is used as a nature and science study area by local schools and the Boys and Girls Scouts of America.

Planned or Potential Future Action

Long-term monitoring of the groundwater, surface water, landfill gas and the vegetative soil cover is ongoing.