



Maryland Department  
of the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: COUNTRY STORE, INC.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION COUNTRY STORE, INC. 2815 NORTHEAST ROAD, NORTH EAST CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND MDE CASE NO. 1992-2616CE (OPEN)

#### SITE LOCATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Oil Control Program (OCP) has evaluated the impacts of petroleum constituents at the Country Store, Inc. located at 2815 Northeast Road. This location has supported an active gasoline retail station since the 1950s.

This facility has been registered by numerous independent owners and operators since the 1950s and has been under the current ownership since 1993. In February 1997, five underground storage tanks (USTs) and approximately 294 tons of petroleum-impacted soils were removed. These tanks were replaced with the current UST system: an 8,000-gallon gasoline; a 12,000-gallon gasoline; and a 12,000-gallon compartmentalized diesel/kerosene. These UST systems comprise double-walled composite steel with flexible plastic piping. This site is equipped with Stage I and Stage II vapor recovery systems. Currently, ten monitoring wells, two monitoring pipes, and a transient, non-community drinking water supplies well are located on-site. Depth to groundwater is between 20 and 30 feet, with groundwater flow southwesterly/southeasterly.

#### SITE HISTORY

In 1991, Alger Oil alerted the MDE to groundwater contamination discovered during a due diligence site assessment conducted for a property transaction. Several petroleum constituents were identified: benzene at 35,000 parts per billion (ppb); toluene at 36,000 ppb; ethylbenzene at 2,000 ppb; and xylene at 11,000 ppb. In 1992, liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) were discovered by MDE-OCP representatives. During subsequent investigations, high dissolved-phase concentrations, indicative of LPH, continued to be detected.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

To date, several private off-site drinking water supply wells, located in close proximity to the active station, have been sampled by Country Stores, Inc. and MDE. MTBE impacts have been confirmed above the State's action level of 20 ppb in two private supply wells. These supply wells were retrofitted with granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems and placed on routine sampling and maintenance schedules. The other private wells and commercial businesses



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were non-detect for petroleum constituents or had low levels of MTBE below the State's action level.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

October 2013, the Department approved a Corrective Action Plan for remedial activities. This plan included the installation of a permanent dual phase extraction system on-site. In addition, the Department is working with Country Stores, Inc. to continue monitoring of the impacted residences. At this time, the MDE-OCP does not anticipate expanding the off-site residential sampling effort beyond sampling needed to ensure community safety.

## **FUTURE UPDATES**

- Postings on [www.mde.maryland.gov](http://www.mde.maryland.gov)
- File available at the MDE Headquarters

## **CONTACTS**

- Maryland Department of the Environment – Oil Control Program: 410-537-3442
- Cecil County Health Department : 410-996-5550
- Country Stores, Inc.: 410-658-3687

## **DISCLAIMER**

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, MDE recommends that the reader review the case file available at MDE through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name in this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.