



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: POTTS & CALLAHAN QUARRY (Voluntary Cleanup Program)

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### Site Location

The 27.61-acre Potts & Callahan Quarry property is located at 2902 West Baltimore Street in Baltimore City, Maryland 21229, in the Carroll-South Hilton area of the City. The local vicinity of the property is occupied by parkland and two rail corridors. A residential neighborhood is located southwest of the site across North Mt. Olivet Lane and a school is located south of the property across West Baltimore Street. The Gwynns Falls is located west of the property and across the CSX rail right-of-way.

An abandoned former stone quarry occupies the northern portion of the property and the remainder of the property is vacant and covered by forest vegetation. The quarry is partially filled with water and is surrounded by steep rock embankments along the western and northern periphery. An abandoned three-sided storage building constructed of large concrete blocks is located atop the embankment on the north side of the property and overlooks the quarry pond. Access to the property is via a narrow, overgrown, deteriorated, asphalt-covered roadway located along the east side of the property and extends from West Baltimore Street at the southern end to the abandoned storage building in the northern portion of the property.

The closest surface water is the Gwynns Falls which, along with the CSX rail tracks, borders the northeastern property boundary.

### Site History

The property was used as a stone quarry from possibly circa 1850 to approximately 1969. From the late 1800s to early 1900s, two small apparently residential structures occupied the south-central portion of the property. A concrete plant occupied the property from circa 1969 until 1997, whereupon Potts & Callahan purchased the property and dismantled the former concrete plant. Several concrete building pads are located atop the northern embankment and are presumably related to former quarry operations. During circa 2003, Potts & Callahan used the property as a disposal area for clean construction debris for about one year. The property has not been actively used for any purpose since disposal was discontinued circa 2003.



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According to Potts & Callahan, Earhart-May, a presumed excavation contractor and former occupant of a portion of the property, reportedly dumped dirt and other undocumented excavation material on the southeast portion of the property during the 1950s and 1960s. The southeast portion of the property is also known as the “Murray Property”.

Former property owners include The Gwynns Falls Stone Corporation (1937-1940), Harry T. Campbell & Sons Company / The Flintkote Company (1940-1986), Genstar Stone Products Company / Redland Genstar, Inc. (1986-1997), and Potts & Callahan, Inc. (1997-present). The property was privately owned prior to 1937.

## **Environmental Investigations and Actions**

In 1987, a 1,000 gallon used oil UST and an 8,000 gallon diesel fuel UST were reportedly removed from the ground. Although there is no documentation available to verify the actual location(s) of the USTs, they are presumed to be formerly located in the northern portion of the property, and associated with the abandoned storage building and concrete pads.

In June 2012, Potts & Callahan authorized an environmental site assessment (ESA) on the property. The ESA noted the aforementioned undocumented dumping, abandoned concrete building and concrete pads in the northern portion of the property, and also noted limited amounts of household trash and water-borne debris associated with the Gwynns Falls along the eastern boundary of the property. There were no detections of hazardous or petroleum-impacted material, drums, bulk storage containers, chemical storage areas, sources of PCBs, pits, ponds (except the aforementioned quarry pond), spills, staining, or stressed vegetation. In March 1987, an equipment-related pressure hose reportedly discharged a limited amount of hydraulic fluid to the ground, whereupon it was promptly cleaned up under MDE supervision.

There were no noted septic systems or potable wells on the property. However, in October 1994 Genstar Stone Products obtained six test well permits, and three monitoring wells were identified on the property. Two wells were located in the heavily wooded south-central portion of the property and the third well was located in the center of the property in the vicinity of the reported fill placement. Although completion reports are available for the six test wells, only three wells were located and no information was available to indicate the status of the remaining three test wells. In May 1995, Genstar received permits to drill nine test wells, but there is no evidence or completion reports to indicate that these test wells were installed.



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In June 2013, Potts & Callahan authorized the second phase of the ESA and the environmental contractor collected soil samples at seven test pit locations and seven hand auger locations, ground water from five borings, and one surface water sample from the quarry pond. One subsurface soil sample from a test pit location indicated an elevated level of the insecticide heptachlor. In August 2013, Potts & Callahan authorized a supplemental test pit investigation whereby four additional test pits were located proximate to the suspect test pit. Subsequent laboratory analyses indicated levels of heptachlor that were “non-detect”.

After reviewing the analytical results from a fixed laboratory for all media samples, the Department determined that environmental-related risk to human health and the environment was acceptable for future commercial and industrial purposes.

### **Current Status**

On August 8, 2012, Potts & Callahan, Inc. submitted an application to the Voluntary Cleanup Program for a 27.61-acre property located at 2902 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore City, Maryland. Potts & Callahan was seeking a No Further Requirements Determination (NFRD) as an inculpable person with future commercial/industrial use intended for the property. On August 26, 2013, after reviewing the appropriate environmental documentation and analytical data, the Department issued a NFRD to Potts & Callahan, Inc.



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