



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: FORMER REGINALD THOMPSON PROPERTY (MD-548)

Site Location

The Former Reginald Thompson Property site is located on a parcel of land off Oldfield Point Road, Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. The parcel under investigation is a portion of the historic Thompson Farm Property and consists of an approximately 12.7-acre piece of land situated in a rural setting just southwest of the Elkton town limits. The property is located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Elkton quadrangles at approximately 39°34.8179' north latitude and 075°52.3160' west longitude and has a Maryland grid coordinate of 638000N and 1118100E. Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxations lists the property as Map 322 Grid 7 Parcel 221.

Site History

The site was a portion of the Thompson family farm in the 1930s. In the period between 1938 and 1957 the parcel was used as a quarry. After operation of the quarry ceased, a junkyard and open dump operated on the parcel. In the late 1960s Galaxy Chemical Company attempted to procure the property as a site for land disposal of still bottom solids from its solvent recovery operation.

Environmental Investigation and Action

The U.S. EPA Environmental Sciences Division published an interpretation of historic aerial photographs in July 2005. The report, Aerial Photographic Analysis of the Route 7 Study Area Bacon Hill, Maryland, included an analysis of the Reginald Thompson property as the Route 7 Southern Study Area. The document details photos of the property from 1938 when it was primarily farmland, through the 1960s when it was a quarry and auto junkyard and to 1999 when it was much as it is today, tree and brush covered.

In July 2001, MDE Oil Control Program (OCP) responded to a complaint of petroleum product leaking from junked automobiles staged on the Martinuk property. The Martinuk property includes Parcel 221 and two other adjacent parcels. Case was closed and issue resolved following site inspection by OCP. (See OCP Case Number A/G-02-0155CE.)



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In June 2007 MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report for the Reginald Thompson Property. The conclusions of the report were that there were no clear indications of volatile organic contamination that might be associated with disposal of still bottom waste from Galaxy Chemical Company. MDE conducted an Expanded Site Inspection in November 2012, which focused on the groundwater downgradient of the Former Reginald Thompson Property.

As an addendum to the 2007 SI MDE conducted an ESI in late 2012 to address concerns over contamination of domestic source water resulting from past waste disposal on Reginald Thompson properties. Domestic wells on the historic Reginald Thompson property were sampled and the samples analyzed for full complement of environmental contaminants including TAL metals, TCL VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides and PCBs. The only contaminant identified at levels above EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSL) was the metal cobalt. Cobalt was identified in all samples at an average level of 23.15 ug/L. The current RSL for cobalt is 4.7 ug/L. There were no other contaminants identified at levels above the EPA RSLs.

Small amounts of cobalt are naturally found in most rocks, soil, water, plants, and animals, typically in small amounts. Cobalt is also found in meteorites. Elemental cobalt is a hard, silvery grey metal. However, cobalt is usually found in the environment combined with other elements such as oxygen, sulfur, and arsenic. Small amounts of these chemical compounds can be found in rocks, soil, plants, and animals. Cobalt is even found in water in dissolved or ionic form, typically in small amounts. A biochemically important cobalt compound is vitamin B12. Vitamin B12 is essential for good health in animals and humans. Nonradioactive cobalt has not been found to cause cancer in humans or animals from exposure to levels of the mineral in food or water.

Current Status

Joseph Martinuk of Elkton is listed as the current owner of the site. Air photographs indicate that the property remains a mix of vacant and residential property.

