



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: HOPKINS QUARRY (MD-450)

Site Location and Ownership

The Hopkins Quarry site is located along Route 222 in the Port Deposit area of Cecil County, Maryland. The quarry site occupies an approximately 30 acre portion of a larger parcel of land. According to the most recent information available from the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation, the site is identified on Cecil County Tax Map 22 as Parcel 30, and has been owned by the Town of Port Deposit since 2002, when it was purchased from the Hopkins family.

The quarry property is bounded by granite cliffs to the north and east, mounded fill material to the south, and Route 222 to the west, with the Susquehanna River beyond. Railroad tracks cross the western portion of the property, parallel to Route 222 and the Susquehanna River. Ruins of a stone structure lie on the western portion of the site, between Route 222 and the railroad tracks.

Site History

Exactly when on-site quarrying activities ceased is unknown, but it is assumed to have been prior to the Hopkins family purchasing the property in 1965. Historical research identified no operational history indicating on-site handling or generation of hazardous waste and no permit was issued to the site for disposal of regulated waste materials. At some point following the cessation of quarrying activities at the site, the site was used by various individuals and businesses from the surrounding area for unauthorized dumping of assorted industrial and municipal waste materials, including, but not limited to 55-gallon drums, junked vehicles, abandoned household appliances, tires, and scrap metal.

Site Investigations

The site was first brought to the attention of state regulators in 1980, when an audit of a nearby facility operated by Wiley Manufacturing, a shipbuilder and large-scale metal fabricator, revealed that wood scraps and sandblasting wastes generated at their facility had been dumped at the Hopkins Quarry site.

On December 16, 1991, the MDE Solid Waste Compliance Division (SWCD) performed an inspection of the Hopkins Quarry site and observed illicit dumping of municipal and industrial waste materials throughout the site. On February 4, 1992 SWCD issued site



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complaint #SC-0-92-SWE-083, which stated that the site owner was in violation of various subparts of Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.04.07, which prohibit open dumping in or near a granite quarry without a permit, creation of a public nuisance, allowing conditions at the site conducive to insect and rodent infestation, and impairing environmental quality by allowing a discharge of pollutants to waters of the state. On March 3, 1992, MDE Emergency Response Division (ERD) responded to a refuse and scrap tire fire at the site. Local firefighters informed ERD that several local industries, most notably Wiley Manufacturing, had dumped drums of unknown wastes at the quarry over the past 15 years and that the quarry was back-filled annually. The site was placed on CERCLIS in response to these allegations. On March 19, 1992, SWCD performed a follow-up inspection. The inspector observed that cleanup of the site had been completed and the access road leading into the site had been barricaded to discourage future illicit dumping.

In June 1993, a preliminary assessment of the site was conducted by the MDE Waste Management Administration (WAS). The preliminary assessment stated that the on-site contamination potential was high for groundwater and soil, and moderate for surface water. In January 1995, MDE Brownfields/Site Assessment Division inspected the site and observed assorted waste materials, including 55-gallon drums, abandoned appliances, tires, and scrap metal littering the banks of and submerged in a water-filled depression. In response, under a cooperative agreement with the EPA, surface water, sediment, and soil samples were collected in March 1995 and May 2001. Collected soil samples exhibited localized, elevated concentrations of arsenic, iron, benzo(a)pyrene, and indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene. Sediment samples exhibited elevated concentrations of arsenic and iron. No elevated concentrations of contaminants were identified in surface water. A 2001 toxicological evaluation of this sample data identified potential dermal and contact risks. The Brownfields/Site Assessment Division recommended grading and capping the exposed surface prior to any redevelopment or change in use. An environmental covenant requiring that MDE be notified at least 2 weeks prior to any on-site excavation or redevelopment was placed on the property when the Town of Port Deposit took ownership of the site in 2002.

Current Site Status

Hopkins Quarry is listed as an open investigation on the State Master List, which identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland, as MD-450.

The case file for the site was revisited by MDE Controlled Hazardous Substance Enforcement Division in March 2012. Based on the existing environmental covenant for the site, no further action or investigation was recommended at this time.



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