

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard, • Suite 625 • Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3437 • 800-633-6101 x3437 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

Former Bishop Processing Site Bishopville, Maryland 21872

Site Location

The Former Bishop Processing site is located in Worcester County, at 13053 Old Stage Road, approximately one mile south of Selbyville, Delaware and 0.8 mile north of Bishop, Maryland. An access road to the site exists just south of the intersection of Route 610 and Old Stage Road. The site is bordered to the east by a single railroad track owned by the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company, to the west by Old Stage Road, to the south and north by residential homes and agricultural fields.

The property is improved with three structures: a large L-shaped structure occupied by a yacht construction company and utilized for storage by a construction company, a small single story frame building formerly used as office space, and several office trailers used by a plumbing supply company. The property, located in a groundwater use area, is currently supplied by an on-site domestic well and utilizes an on-site septic system.

Aerial photographs indicate that the entire southeast corner of the property was formerly covered by wastewater lagoons that were part of a rendering facility. These waste lagoons received spent sulfuric acid after it was used to strip animal and vegetable oils for reprocessing into feed grade products. The former lagoon areas are currently covered with tall grass and weeds. A shallow pond encompassing several acres is located in the southeastern portion of the property.

The property is generally level with a gentle eastward slope. Stormwater runoff flows overland toward the drainage ditch along Kennedyville Road or toward the retention pond on the southeastern portion of the property. The site is underlain by one to three feet of fill material in the developed portion of the site grading into unconsolidated sands with various amounts of silt. Unconfined groundwater is encountered approximately one to four feet below grade. An unnamed tributary to Morgan Creek, which flows into the Chester River, is located approximately one-half mile southeast of the property.

Site History

The Bishop Processing Company began operations in 1955. The facility processed chicken offal into bone meal and usable oils and acidulated animal and vegetable waste oils into usable product. The operation ceased in 1981 and the property was sold to Mrs. Kay Thomas. In 2003, the property was sold to 3-D's Enterprises.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

Since 1955, the State of Maryland has documented contamination of an unnamed tributary to Carey's Branch, a stream located less than one mile north of the site. In 1979, 11 monitoring wells were installed at the site in order to determine the extent of on and off-site contamination. No groundwater contamination was detected and the State concluded that no further groundwater investigation was warranted at that time.

In 1983 and 1985, the NUS Corporation performed site inspections of the plant for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sampling of the monitoring wells by NUS revealed high levels of iron, chromium, and low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as vinyl

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chloride, as well as extremely low pH. Surface water had high levels of iron and aluminum and slightly elevated levels of organics. Soil samples in the vicinity of the plant contained Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), as well as low levels of VOCs. Residential wells were also sampled; one well southwest of the site (Parcel 56) was found to contain 210 parts per billion trichloroethene. The resident installed a new deeper well, which subsequently tested clean.

In 1989, the property owner demolished part of the plant. An inspection at that time identified 14 potential waste sources, including asbestos, PCB transformers, and various tanks of acid, waste oil, and fuel oil. Several of these sources had releases that resulted in soil contamination.

Also in 1989, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a preliminary assessment on-site, which included the collection of soil, surface and ground water samples. The sample results indicated low pH and concentrations of arsenic in soils on site. At that time, damage of the monitoring wells by trespassers was noted. As a result of this sampling and the existing conditions of the property, a high priority site inspection was recommended.

In 1990, MDE and the site owner signed a Consent Order establishing deadlines for cleaning up and disposing of the PCB-contaminated wastes. The owner excavated and packed the PCB-contaminated soil into drums instead of hiring a professional contractor to complete the work. The drums of soil were ultimately removed to a permitted disposal facility as required by the Consent Order.

In 1992, MDE conducted a Level III Site Inspection Prioritization. PCBs (100mg/kg) and arsenic (2.9 mg/kg) were detected in soils at levels above Risk Based Concentrations (RBCs). A sample from one of the on-site monitoring wells revealed elevated levels of arsenic (8 ug/l) above drinking water standards.

A site survey, completed by MDE in 1999, concluded that additional investigation was necessary. MDE conducted a State site assessment in 2000, which included a monitoring well survey and soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water sampling. Some pesticides were detected in surface soil samples, but the levels did not exceed RBCs for industrial property. No semi-volatile organics were detected at the site. Because the monitoring well survey indicated that the wells were in poor condition, a geoprobe rig was utilized. The results of this assessment indicated that the pH of the groundwater was within normal range. Several VOCs, including carbon disulfide and acetone (a common lab contaminant) were detected in the ground water and soils. Carbon disulfide is likely a result of reactions with the acid waste previously dumped in the lagoons. The remaining VOCs are probably petroleum related. The existence of at least two underground storage tanks was apparent at the time of this assessment.

Current Status

On August 25, 2004, a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application was submitted by 3-D's Enterprises seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as a responsible person. The applicant is planning future industrial use of the property. In February 2005, MDE's Oil Control Program oversaw the removal of four underground fuel oil tanks at the small office structure, under case number 2004-0990-WO. In March 2005, additional soil, ground water

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and surface water samples were collected across the site as part of the VCP application process.

Planned or Potential Future Action

The application is currently being reviewed.

Contacts

Contact Name	Contact Organization	Contact Telephone #
James W. Metz	Maryland Department of the Environment Voluntary Cleanup/Brownfields Division	(410) 537-3493