

**Cranberry Run Substation  
Westminster, Maryland  
Carroll County  
(MD-190)**

**Site Location**

The Cranberry Run Substation is located on Old Manchester Road, Westminster, Maryland. The approximate 3.5-acre site is located at the intersection of Old Manchester Road and the B&O Railroad, just north of Cranberry Run.

**Site History**

In 1915, the Consolidated Utility Company of Westminster started coal gas manufacturing operations at the site to fuel boilers used to generate electricity. This process generated coal tar as a waste product. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) does not have any records relating to the disposal of the coal tar generated from this site.

In 1933, Consolidated Gas, Electric, and Light Company purchased the property and stopped gas manufacturing at the facility. The facility was then converted into a substation to provide power to the area. In 1955, Consolidated Gas, Electric, and Light Company became Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE).

In 1972, the City of Westminster purchased the property from BGE.

**Environmental Investigations**

In 1985, as a result of coal tar odors being detected during the construction of a nearby pipeline, BGE contracted Geraghty & Miller, Inc. to conduct a groundwater investigation of the property. The results of the investigation indicated that the upgradient well contained 89 parts per billion (ppb) trichloroethylene (TCE). Traces of chlorinated solvents (up to 5 ppb) were detected in some of the soils and groundwater collected from other portions of the site, but not at levels that exceeded Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Relatively low levels (below current Risk Based Concentrations) of coal-tar constituents were detected in four out of 28 soil samples.

In 1986 and 1988, Geraghty and Miller conducted three additional rounds of sampling at the site. The results indicated the presence of TCE in the upgradient well at 95, 100, and 140 ppb respectively, and smaller (4 ppb) concentrations of chlorinated solvents at other locations of the site.

In 1986, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment of the site, which was followed by a 1990 Site Inspection conducted by NUS Corporation. Both of these reports based their conclusions on the results of the Geraghty & Miller investigations. It was concluded in the Site Inspection that since the TCE contamination consistently appeared only in the upgradient well, that the contamination came from an off-site source. However, no conclusions were made as to the potential source of the TCE contamination, and none has been identified since that time.

Based on the results of the Site Inspection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave the Cranberry Run Substation a No Further Remedial Action Planned status.

## **Current Status**

Pursuant to the 1990 Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, the MDE is conducting a site survey of Cranberry Run Substation. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended for the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action be taken by EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

## **Contact Person**

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