

LONG'S SEPTIC SERVICES (MD-363)
Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland

Site Location

The 9.8-acre Long's Septic Services site is located approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of Gravel Hill Road and Maryland Route 462 in Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland. The site, located within an agricultural and residential area near Abingdon, Maryland, is bordered on the north and east by residences, and the south and west by agricultural land.

Site History

Prior to 1952, the property and the surrounding area were apparently used as agricultural land. In 1952, Leslie F. and Jean Long et. al. purchased three parcels from W. Noble and Anna Clyta Hamilton. They purportedly used the property for residential and agricultural purposes. From the late 1960s to the early 1970s, Long's Septic Service operated on the site. In 1974, after the septic operations had ceased, Mr. Long divided the property into three residential lots and sold two to Mr. Robert David Wheat. The Long family continued to live on the third 2.3-acre lot.

Environmental Investigations

The site came to the attention of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration in the late 1980s when citizens alleged that sewage waste and chemical waste from the American Cyanamid Chemical Company were dumped on site in the late 1960s. The complaint resulted in the Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration's conducting a Preliminary Assessment of the property in 1990. The Preliminary Assessment report noted that during a site visit, no disposal areas were identified and no adverse damage to the environment was observed. The report noted only the presence of dead trees that had been plowed over. The report concluded that the potential impact to the public health through drinking water could be significant if the dumping allegations proved to be true.

In June 1991 and October 1991, the Harford County Health Department collected water samples from the on-site domestic wells located on the property. Benzene at 31 parts per billion (ppb) and 1,2-dichloroethane at 7 ppb were detected in the Long's home well. No other contaminants above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) were detected. The samples collected in October 1991 showed no contamination above MCLs.

In 1993, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a Screening Site Inspection of the property. The result of the inspection indicated elevated levels of barium (up to 140 parts per million [ppm]), lead (up to 1,020 ppm), nickel (up to 127 ppm), copper (up to 10,500 ppm), pyrene (up to 410 ppb), benzo(b)fluoranthene (up to 430 ppb), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (up to 360 ppb), di-n-butyl phthalate (up to 1,500 ppb), phenanthrene (up to 300 ppb), 4,4'-DDT (Up to 230 ppb), and di-n-octyl phthalate (up to 67 ppb) in the soils and sediments of the site. In addition, lead was detected in one home well at 15.4 ppb and dieldrin was detected at 0.085 ppb. The toxicological evaluation of the results indicated that the presence of some of these chemicals, such as lead in the soil and groundwater, and copper in the soil, might result in adverse health effects.

In January 2001, MDE's Waste Management Administration (WMA) prepared a Site Survey. WMA concluded that although lead and dieldrin were detected in the water samples collected from one of the homes, there was no evidence that the activities of Long's Septic Service had adversely impacted the groundwater at the site. WMA also determined that although chromium and nickel contamination was detected in sediments from the on-site drainage ditches, concentrations decreased downstream. Consequently, the surface water was determined not to present a risk to human health. Further, the report concluded that the levels of lead and copper in the soil exceeded Risk-Based Concentrations established by EPA and may have adverse health effects to future residents.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Contact

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