Maryland Department of the Environment

68th Street Dump (Superfund Alternative Site)

What You Need to Know

Site Location

The 68th Street Dump site, which covers approximately 239 acres, is in Rosedale in Baltimore County, Maryland. Boundaries are the CSX rail line on the northwest, Herring Run on the southwest, Herring Run and the Amtrak/Norfolk Southern rail lines on the southeast, and Redhouse Run on the northeast. The site is crossed on the western portion in a north-south direction by Interstate 95 (I-95) and in a west-east direction by Moores Run, which flows into the Back River. A sewer pipeline crosses the Island Landfill to enter a pumping station adjacent to the Redhouse Run Landfill. The site is in a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area of Baltimore County and City, with I-95 transecting the City/County line.

The site is a collection of seven landfills that include four sites on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): 68th Street Dump (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises (MD-184), Colgate Pay Dump (MD-176), and R.M. Winstead (MD-133).

Site History

Waste disposal activities occurred on the site between the 1940s and the 1970s, with several landfill operating permits issued at that time. These landfills received industrial, commercial, and municipal waste, including solvents, paints, liquids, ash from the Baltimore City incinerator, and drums containing metal sludges from electroplating processes. Other operations included dumping waste oil into open lagoons, metal salvaging, and refuse burning. Disposal occurred mostly in low-lying areas, which resulted in the placement of significant volumes of waste at or below the water table.

The site was initially proposed to the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) on January 19, 1999. During the public comment period, EPA received extensive comments on the proposed listing. In response to the comments, EPA conducted further sampling in 2000 and then re-proposed the site to the NPL on April 30, 2003.

Rather than formally adding the site to the NPL, EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties (the 68th Street Coalition) agreed to address the site as a Superfund Alternative Site (SAS). In accordance with this agreement, the site has been addressed in the same manner as if it were listed on the NPL, but without the formal NPL designation.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

The media of concern includes soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment. The contaminants of concern include lead, arsenic, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs), and the pesticides dieldrin, endrin, DDE and DDT.

Four removal actions were conducted at the site. In 1982, approximately 23 drums, some of which contained powdery sludges, were excavated and transported off-site for appropriate disposal. The

second removal action was completed in 1984 when ten 55-gallon drums were identified protruding from a hillside on the site that is now being leased to Partner's Quality Recycling Services, Inc. These drums were transported off-site for proper disposal; one drum contained paint sludge and the rest were empty. The third removal action was completed in 1985 after a fire occurred on the Island Landfill portion of the site. Air samples collected by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) during the fire revealed the presence of VOCs. After the fire was extinguished, over forty 55-gallon drums were discovered protruding from the surface in this area. At the request of MDE, the owner excavated and transported these drums off-site for proper disposal. The Island Landfill was subsequently covered with two feet of soil, capped with a sewage sludge/soil mixture, and vegetated. The fourth removal action occurred in 2008, when contaminated surface soil, containers, gas cylinders, empty drums, and batteries were removed and disposed of off-site.

The site has undergone extensive investigation, which has included the collection of samples of soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment. These samples were analyzed for a comprehensive range of pollutants in accordance with MDE and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) procedures.

In 1985, two Preliminary Assessments (PAs) were completed at the site. Subsequently, two Site Inspection (SI) reports were completed in 1986 and 1989. In 1992, an SI Prioritization was conducted, and in 1995, an Expanded SI was completed. These studies identified SVOCs, pesticides, PCBs, and metals in on-site soils, SVOCs, PCBs, and metals in on-site sediments, and metals in on-site surface water.

The Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed in August 2012. Hazardous substances detected at the site included lead, arsenic, VOCs, SVOCs, PAHs, PCBs, and pesticides. The site was organized into six separate Management Areas (MA-A through M-F) to facilitate the RI and Feasibility Study (FS).

The FS was finalized in March 2013. The FS evaluated remedial options to determine the appropriate cleanup action for the site. The Proposed Plan for Remedial Action was issued by EPA in June 2013. The Record of Decision for Remedial Action was signed by EPA in September 2013.

The Final Remedial Design (RD) was completed in 2022. The Remedial Action (RA) began in May 2023 and was largely completed by November 2024. Completion of the RA in 2025 included planting specific Phragmites species and installing trash racks.

The Selected Remedy included the placement of a 2-foot cover of clean soil over the landfills (unless it was already present), which was then re-vegetated. Leachate and groundwater migrating from the landfills towards the adjacent streams is captured and treated prior to discharge into the surface water by enhanced wetlands and/or biowalls or collected and treated at a local wastewater treatment facility.

Soil exceeding cleanup levels was excavated or covered with two feet of clean soil. Sediments from three on-site ponds were excavated and replaced with clean material. Surface debris was removed and recycled or disposed of in compliance with current regulations. The remedy also included extracting oily free-product, venting soil gas, constructing access barriers, stabilizing stream banks, monitoring, and implementing institutional controls. Future use of the site will be restricted (i.e., no residences or drinking water wells).

Current Status

The draft Construction Completion Report, which summarizes the RA and Natural Resource Damage

(NRD) Restoration, was submitted to EPA and MDE in June 2025.

Planned or Potential Future Action

The long-term monitoring and Operation & Maintenance activities will continue.