

MD-154
Baltimore County, Maryland

In 1927, Baltimore City acquired the property and used it as an unpermitted landfill until 1984.

In June 1986, DHMH completed a Preliminary Assessment.

In June 1989, MDE completed a methane gas survey that concluded that there was no risk of off site methane gas migration at that time.

In July 1990, NUS Corporation Superfund Division completed a Site Inspection that detected elevated levels of lead in the subsoil and chlorinated solvents in the groundwater.

In October 1990, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

Bowley's Lane Landfill
Baltimore, Maryland

Site Location

The 22-acre Bowley's Lane Landfill is located between Herring Run and Moravia Road, northwest of the Harbor Tunnel Thruway in eastern Baltimore City. The triangular shaped landfill is bordered by Herring Run on the southwest, Herring Run Park on the northwest, and Moravia Road on the east. Biddison Run traverses the site northwest to southwest discharging into Herring Run which flows southwest.

Currently, the site is a bulk trash drop-off center for the citizens of Baltimore City as well as a maintenance and storage yard for the City's trash disposal trucks and other equipment. The waste collected at the site is taken to a transfer station in northwest Baltimore City or directly to the City landfill at Quarantine Road in southeastern Baltimore City.

Site History

In 1927, the City of Baltimore acquired the property from the Baltimore County Water and Electric Company as part of the City annexation. The landfill was developed in three sequences. The first sequence, known as fill area no. 1, was filled to roughly 15 feet above the original grade prior to 1968. No records exist for this section of the landfill that is located on the northern part of the landfill. There are two eastern sequences known as Phase I and Phase II, and are grouped together as fill area no. 2. Fill area no. 2 operated between 1968 through 1983 and accepted primarily porous ash from the Pulaski Highway Incinerator. Bulk trash and street sweepings were also accepted at the landfill. After an inspection by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Waste Management Administration personnel, negotiations were initiated to develop a closure plan to address on-site leachate seeps, soil erosion, storm water control and surface cover. The landfill was closed in 1984. A leachate collection system discharging into the Baltimore City sewer system and groundwater monitoring wells are now in place.

Environmental Investigations

In November 1983, as a part of the landfill closure plan, the City of Baltimore completed a Hydrogeologic Report of the Bowley's Lane Landfill. The report indicated that most precipitation falling onto the landfill and infiltrating the highly porous incinerator ash will permeate into the water-bearing zone that is approximately 6 to 25

feet beneath the cap and flow to the south and southeast, with portions seeping into Herring Run.

In June 1986, DHMH completed a Preliminary Assessment during the closure of the landfill and indicated that an evaluation of the site should take place after installation of a leachate collection system and groundwater monitoring wells.

In June 1989, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) completed a methane gas survey that concluded there was no risk of off-site migration of methane gas from the landfill.

In July 1990, the NUS Corporation Superfund Division completed a Site Inspection under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The toxicological evaluation of the sampling found that lead in the subsoil was present at a level where prolonged skin contact should be avoided. Levels of chlorinated solvents (chlorobenzene, carbon disulfide, and naphthalene), detected in on-site monitoring wells were not expected to produce any significant impact. The toxicological evaluation also found that the level of benzene detected in the monitoring wells was above drinking water criteria, but was not expected to impact human health since groundwater is not utilized as a drinking water source. Aluminum and lead were also detected in local surface water above Ambient Water Quality Criteria, which may have possible impacts on sensitive aquatic life. Finally, tetrachloroethene and polycyclic aromatic compounds were detected in low levels in local sediment, but no health or environmental impact was expected.

Current Status

Under a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA Superfund Program, the MDE is conducting a site survey of the Bowley's Lane Landfill site. 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 to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA, or no further action be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

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