



BAYARD STATION

What You Need to Know

Site Location

The Bayard Station is a former gas manufacturing and storage plant that was located in the northeastern corner of Bayard and Nanticoke Streets in southwest Baltimore City, Maryland (the Site). The Site is bordered by Bayard Street to the south, Wicomico Street to the east, Nanticoke Street to the west and Ostend Street to the north. The Site is located in an urban, industrialized area with some residential properties located to the north and west. The former plant site is currently used primarily for industrial purpose and covered almost entirely by buildings and/or concrete and paved parking surface.

Site History

The Bayard Station manufacturing gas plant (MGP) was opened in 1882 and was originally operated by the Equitable Gas Light Company until 1885, when it was taken over by the Chesapeake Gas Company. Chesapeake Gas Company consolidated with other gas companies to form the Consolidated Gas Company of Baltimore in 1888. That company became the Consolidated Gas Electric Light & Power Company (CGELP) in 1905. CGELP changed its name in 1955 to the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE).

The Site was utilized for the production of water gas until 1904. At the peak of its operation the gas works occupied over 14 acres spread across two city blocks. The Bayard complex included the Valve House, four large "gasometers" and a series of processing buildings across Hamburg Street. The gas was manufactured, stored in four large gas holders (gasometers), and then piped into the valve house where it was compressed before being directed into the main lines of the city. In 1904 all manufacturing activity ceased at the Site when all processing was moved to the Spring Garden plant and the Site was used only as a gas storage facility from 1904 until 1951. Most of the Bayard Street Station was torn down by the mid-1960s, and by the mid-1980s it was subdivided into several parcels and sold into private hands.

Environmental Investigation and Action

In 1985, the Site came to the attention of Maryland Waste Management Administration, when BGE reported that approximately 170,000 cubic feet of oxide box waste materials composed of spent iron oxide contaminated with sulfur, traces of tar, and various ferro-cyanides had been disposed in the base of old gas holders at the Bayard Station Site in 1970. These originated at the Spring Gardens Plant and no information is available regarding whether the waste was disposed into one or more of the four holder basins on the Site. The area where the gas holders once stood is now a paved parking lot.

Between 1985 and 1989, BGE conducted two phases of a sub-surface investigation in addition to four groundwater sampling events. The investigations indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds, such as benzene, ethylbenzene, pyrene, toluene, and xylenes, along with polyaromatic hydrocarbon compounds (PAHs) such as naphthalene and phenanthrene in the



BAYARD STATION

What You Need to Know

soil and groundwater, Groundwater samples also contained benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, toluene, acenaphthalene, and xylenes.

In 1990, NUS Corporation prepared a Site Investigation which consists of a summary of the work done at the Site. Based on the findings of this report, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) status to the Site.

In 1991, BGE conducted a Phase III investigation to delineate the vertical extent of groundwater contamination. The study indicated that the groundwater flow pattern in the upper consolidated sediment was radial (to north-east, east and south) whereas the flow direction in lower consolidated sediment was to the east. The samples from the deep monitoring wells indicated the presence of free phase methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK) which is not a by-product of the gas manufacturing process and indicates a possible different source. From 1991 till 1995, BGE conducted an annual groundwater monitoring program to regulate the contamination.

In 1992, MDE conducted an additional confirmatory investigation near the portion of the Site which was occupied at that time by Ball Metal Decorating and Services Division. Ball Metal was not amenable to additional groundwater investigation citing that the problems were not a result from their operation.

In 1997, MDE's Oil Control Program (OCP) investigated the former the Ball Metal property which was then occupied by Altrista/US Can and determined the presence of free product in the monitoring well. Subsequently in 1999, the US Can facility entered MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program and was issued a Certificate of Completion (COC) in September 2000 after the Site issues were addressed.

In 2001 BGE submitted a supplemental Soil Sampling Summary and Risk Assessment Report to MDE in an attempt to bring the Site to a closure, and to obtain a No Further Action (NFA) determination for the Site. However, no decision could be reached at that time.

CURRENT STATUS

MDE is currently working with BGE to find a path forward towards Site closure through implementation of Site specific containment remedies and deed restriction.