



Facts About...

Tri-State Oil (Brownfields site)

Site Location

The site is located at 303-305 East Market Street, in Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland.

Site History

The site was brought to the attention of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on January 16, 1991, when a Site Complaint was issued to the manager of the terminal by MDE's NPDES Enforcement personnel. The complaint was issued for discharge of oil to waters of the state, failure to take immediate containment measures, and failure to notify the state within 2 hours of detecting the spill.

Environmental Investigations

Later that same month, a 31' X 87' excavation was dug in order to remove the contaminated soil on the property. Since a swampy area limited the extent of the removal, some of the remaining soil still contained up to 3,500 mg/kg Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH).

Based on a site inspection write-up dated March 22, 1991, an MDE representative concluded that there were no signs that additional work would be needed, except for possible extension of the excavation when the area was not as swampy.

In May 2001, a Phase I and a limited Phase II Environmental Assessments were conducted by Bay Environmental Corporation. The Phase I report indicated that the site was subject to environmental releases in the early 1970s. The Phase II study found that soil, soil gas and groundwater samples collected from the site contained significant levels of Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylenes (BTEX), Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and/or TPH components.

In March 2006 MDE completed a Brownfields Site Specific Assessment (SSA) that presented results from sampling soil, surface water, sediments and groundwater at the Tri-State Oil site in November 2004. Samples were analyzed for Volatile Organic Compounds, Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds, metals and TPH. The results of the analyses indicated significant levels of metals and TPH in soils at the site. Subsequent to the 2006 SSA, MDE sampled soils at the site in the area of the previous background sample to confirm and/or determine the extent of soil contamination detected in the SSA. The results of the supplemental sampling indicated that there is some metals contamination in surface and subsurface soils in the southwest portion of the site. Arsenic was detected in surface and subsurface samples at levels exceeding the MDE Residential Cleanup Standards. Mercury was detected in subsurface samples at levels exceeding the MDE Residential Cleanup Standards.

Current Status

Currently the report for the supplemental sampling event is under federal review.

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