



Maryland Department of the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: Globe Fireworks

### Site Location

The former Globe Fireworks site is situated on four parcels along the south side of East Old Philadelphia Road (Route 7) in a predominantly residential area approximately 0.8 mile east of the town of North East, Cecil County. There are nine dwellings with approximately 20 residents on the four parcel site. The addresses of the dwellings are 814, 830, 832, 836, 838, 842, 844, 850 and 856 East Old Philadelphia Road.

### Site History

A review of available records indicates that the site use was residential until sometime in the 1950s. Aerial photographs from 1938 and 1947 do not appear to show fireworks manufacturing related activities on or near the site. On June 2, 1961 a large explosion leveled five on-site buildings. Fireworks operations continued until sometime before 1977. During the years of fireworks operations on site, the name of the operating company changed immediately after large explosions. The following table chronicles the names and dates of the companies known to have operated there:

| <b>Company name</b>   | <b>Approximate date of large explosion or file information signaling company name change</b> |
|---|--|
| Bacon Hill Fireworks/Beacon Hill Fireworks  | Sometime prior to June 2, 1961   |
| Eagle Fireworks   | Sometime after June 2, 1961  |
| North East Fireworks  | Sometime prior to May 23, 1963   |
| Brooks Pyrotechnical and Chemical Company   | Sometime after January 19, 1965  |
| Brooks Fireworks  | Sometime prior to February 3, 1965   |
| Globe Fireworks   | Sometime prior to December 17, 1968  |
| Globe Fuse and Specialty Company  | Sometime after April 23, 1971 until sometime in 1977   |
| <i>Interstate Fireworks Company may have operated on parcel 495 sometime prior to May 2, 1961 until a May 1962 explosion.</i> |  |

### Environmental Investigations

In April 2009, the Maryland Department of the Environment's Land Restoration Program (MDE) collected aqueous samples from on site and nearby residential wells and submitted them to GPL Laboratories for perchlorate analysis using EPA Method 314.0. Results of the chemical analyses did



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not identify perchlorate in the residential well samples.

## **Current Status**

In April 2010, MDE completed a Site Inspection (SI) of the former Globe Fireworks site. Since the Toxicological Evaluation conducted with the data collected from the SI did not identify elevated risks, MDE recommended no further investigation of hazardous wastes from the former fireworks operations at the site.



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