FACTS ABOUT:
HOWARD COUNTY LANDFILL SITE

Site Location

The historic Howard County Landfill is an 85-acre parcel located approximately ¼-mile south of Ellicott City off New Cut Road and about three tenths of a mile from the Route 103 intersection with New Cut Road. The coordinates for the geographic center of the site are 39.246917° North Latitude and 076.796769 West Longitude.

Site History

The landfill is an inactive disposal area which operated from 1947 until 1979. Howard County has owned the site since 1947, and the Division of Solid Waste operated the facility as an open dump until 1970, when it was developed into a sanitary landfill. Prior to 1970, the site was an open burning dump; waste was routinely burned and the ash pushed off to the side. After 1970, the site operated as a landfill; waste was buried and covered daily with a layer of clean soil.

Approximately 600 cubic yards of refuse were disposed of and covered here daily from 1970 until 1979. The Eckhardt report stated that 800 tons of inorganic solids and salts generated by the Diamond Shamrock Baltimore TCI Plant were disposed of here between 1947 and 1977. A 1972 upgrading effort resulted in better surface water diversion, improved security, and the diversion of a spring to a nearby settling basin. The landfill was regraded, capped, seeded and closed in 1979. Three monitoring wells have been installed and are monitored quarterly by the county.

Environmental Investigation and Action

Two streams adjacent to the landfill direct runoff from the site to the Patapsco River. Increased levels of iron, manganese, and several organics, mainly chlorinated aliphatics, were reported in samples from on-site surface waters. Increased levels of several inorganics were reported in monitoring well samples, the highest being present in MW-1. There were no organic priority pollutants identified in the groundwater.

Current Status

The site has been closed and capped and a landfill gas venting system has been installed. The county continues to monitor conditions at the site.

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