



Facts About...

Red Toad Road Ordnance Disposal Site Non-Master List Site (MD-544)

Site Location

The Red Toad Road Ordnance Disposal Site is located on a parcel of land just east of I-95 off of the 900 Block of Red Toad Road, North East, Cecil County, Maryland. The parcel under investigation consists of an approximately 40-acre parcel situated in a rural setting just North of the town of North East. The property is located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) North East quadrangles at approximately 39°37.0421' north latitude and 075°59.7218' west longitude and has a Maryland grid coordinate of 651200N and 1082900E. Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation lists the property as Map 24 Grid 23 Parcel 241.

Site History

The Elkton area was the center of World War II era munitions manufacturing in Maryland. An interview conducted by MDE in 2006 with a former employee of Triumph Explosives Industries identified a property on Red Toad Road as being the site of off-spec ordnance disposal for the Elkton ordnance district. Directions to the site as given by the employee were to head northwest on Red Toad Road off of MD RT 40, cross the B&O Railroad tracks, go to the top of the hill, turn left on a dirt access road, and follow the access road to the end. The dump site is in the woods at the end of the access road.

The property is part of a parcel purchased by the Whitaker Family in the 1830s. In 1836, the Whitakers Iron Company purchased the property and continued to operate the Principio Iron Works, which had been established in 1720. The Whitaker Iron Company abandoned the Principio property and in January 1942, the Cecil Whig reported that the forge buildings had burned down. The site was used as a Christmas tree farm from 1956 until 1993. In April 1981, York Building Products Company purchased the property from the Whitaker Iron Company.

Environmental Investigation and Action

The U.S. EPA Environmental Sciences Division published historic aerial photographs of the area in 2006. The document details photos of the property from 1938 when it was primarily farm and woodland, through the 1970s when it was tree and brush-covered, much as it is today.

The property owner contracted an Electromagnetic (EM) survey of the area of concern in order to determine if munitions remain on the site. The survey concluded that there is no debris on the site associated with the munitions industry. MDE performed a Quality Control inspection of the EM surveyed area and concluded that there was no sign of ordnance related debris on the property. Based on current information, MDE recommends the site be listed as no further remedial action planned.

Current Status

York Building Products Company currently owns the site. York intends to mine the area for sand and gravel at an unspecified time within the next decade.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3440. Last update June 22, 2011

