



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: GRAVE RUN/HOFFMANVILLE

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### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION GRAVE RUN/HOFFMANVILLE GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION MANCHESTER, CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND MDE CASE NO. 2006-1127-CL

#### SITE LOCATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Oil Control Program (OCP), is investigating the source of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) detected in several drinking water wells in the Grave Run Road/Hoffmanville Road community. The MDE-OCP has been coordinating this investigation with the Carroll County Health Department (CCHD). The area is primarily residential and agricultural.

#### SITE HISTORY

On June 7, 2006, the CCHD alerted the Oil Control Program of MTBE concentrations above the State's action level in private drinking water supply wells located on Grave Run Road. On June 21, 2006, the CCHD provided written notification to residents in the area regarding the MTBE detected in drinking water wells. MTBE is a fuel additive that was commonly used to reduce carbon monoxide and ozone levels in auto emissions. There is no national regulatory standard for MTBE in drinking water. In 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an advisory for MTBE based on taste and odor of 20 to 40 parts per billion (ppb). Although the EPA has not established a regulated Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for MTBE, the MDE-OCP has adopted an action level of 20 ppb.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

The only historic MDE-OCP case in the area involved the removal of a 2,000-gallon steel underground storage tank (UST) for heating oil in November 1998, located 1.5 miles to the north and topographically downgradient of the impacted area. After conducting field reconnaissance in the Grave Run Road/Hoffmanville Road area, the MDE-OCP identified two locations with petroleum USTs and opened two new cases. In July 2006, the MDE issued directive letters to two property owners requiring the removal of the out-of-service USTs and the testing/removal of an active heating oil UST. In September 2006, both property owners commissioned the removals of their USTs. The MDE subsequently closed these respective cases in June 2008. There are no gas stations in the area and a definitive source of the MTBE release has not been identified.

To date, the CCHD and MDE have sampled sixty-five drinking water wells in the area. MTBE was detected below State action levels in 18 wells and above the action level in 6 wells. At properties where MTBE was detected above action levels, MDE offered to install and maintain granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems. Five of the six property owners opted for MDE to install a GAC system. MDE-OCP has maintained a program of routine sampling and GAC maintenance at properties as necessary based on sampling results and MTBE concentration trends.



## **CURRENT STATUS**

Based on sampling results and decreasing trends in contaminant levels, MDE continues to sample drinking water and maintain a GAC system at two residential properties.

## **FUTURE UPDATES**

- Postings available on [www.mde.maryland.gov](http://www.mde.maryland.gov)
- File available at MDE-OCP headquarters in Baltimore.

## **CONTACTS**

- Oil Control Program: (410) 537-3442 or (800) 633-6101 x3442
- Carroll County Health Department: 410-876-2152

## **DISCLAIMER**

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to the MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, the MDE recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by the MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.