



Facts About...

Pulaski Incinerator Facility Property (Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Location

The 19.136-acre site, located at 6709 Pulaski Highway in eastern Baltimore City, is bordered by Route 40 (Pulaski Highway) to the north, Herring Run to the west and south, a railroad right-of-way and potential wetlands to the southeast, and potential wetlands and Interstate 95 to the east. Until 2004, the property was improved with the former Pulaski Incinerator and associated out buildings.

The land surface is relatively flat, and gently slopes downward to the south, towards a railroad right-of-way and Herring Run. Herring Run, the nearest surface water body, lies adjacent to the property on the west and southwest, and flows in a general southeasterly direction. Wetland areas associated with Herring Run and other tributaries to Back Creek are within 0.5-mile of the property. Surface water runoff is generally to the south.

Groundwater beneath the property occurs under unconfined conditions at between 20 to 45 feet below grade, depending on local water table fluctuations, and flows generally to the southwest towards Herring Run. The property is underlain by debris and ash fill material up to 39 feet thick, beneath which are Pleistocene Lowland Deposits characterized by gravels, sands, silts, and clays.

Site History

From 1801 to 1969, numerous commercial entities operated at the site. The City of Baltimore currently owns the property, which was acquired in four conveyances in 1921, 1936, 1956, and 1969. Since 1981, The Pulaski Company has held a ground lease, and owns the incinerator, buildings, and other property improvements. In 1927, the first incinerator unit was constructed, and between 1931 to 1995, the property operated as a municipal solid waste incineration facility. In 1954, the original incinerator unit was demolished and replaced with four operating units in 1955. A fifth unit was subsequently constructed and operations continued until 1995, when the facility was shut down. A portion of the property served as an abandoned vehicle storage lot for the City of Baltimore until 2004 when the facility was demolished.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

Environmental investigations performed in 1992, 1998, and 2002 identified several areas of environmental concern, such as incinerator ash which was spread across the property, rubble fill material, at least two underground storage tanks, and localized areas of petroleum-based contamination. During the operational history of the incinerator, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued numerous citations, (including a 1993 Consent Order), for failure to comply with air emissions standards, and failure to contain surface water runoff from the ash disposal area.



In March 2006, the applicant performed a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment that determined elevated levels of certain semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, total petroleum hydrocarbons, dioxins, and furans in the soil and certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals, cyanide, and total petroleum hydrocarbons in the groundwater and surface water. In January 2008, the MDE/Oil Control Program supervised the removal of two 4,000-gallon underground storage tanks from the property.

Current Status

On April 23, 2003, The Pulaski II Limited Partnership / The New Pulaski Company Limited Partnership submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application seeking a No Further Requirements Determination as a responsible person. On July 14, 2003, the Department requested additional information and sampling. The requested work was performed during March 2006. In January 2007, the applicant updated the VCP application, and the entity was changed to The New Pulaski Company Limited Partnership. In January 2007, the Department accepted the 19.136-acre property into the VCP, confirmed the responsible person status of The New Pulaski Company Limited Partnership, and concurred that a response action plan (“RAP”) must be developed. A draft RAP was submitted to the Department in January 2008. A public notice of a RAP and public informational meeting was held on March 4, 2008 at the Enoch Pratt Library, Herring Run Branch, 3801 Erdman Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. The New Pulaski Company Limited Partnership submitted a revised RAP to the Department in October 2008. In June 2009, the Department issued comments on the revised RAP and required The New Pulaski Company Limited Partnership to incorporate certain recommendations and suggestions into the revised RAP and resubmit the document to the Department for review and approval.

Contact

For additional information, contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

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