

MD-352
Baltimore City

1895	Manufacturing operations commenced. Property owned by American Can Company.
1986	Operations ceased.
1987	American National Can Company formed after merger with the National Can Corporation.
1988	Plaza Land Association assumed ownership.
1991	MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment. Site designated "No Further Remedial Action Planned" by the EPA.
05/97	VCP application submitted by the prospective purchaser, The Can Company.
08/97	MDE granted inculcable person status. The Can Company assumed ownership.
10/23/97	MDE approved the Response Action Plan.
04/98	Response Action Plan completed.
08/03/98	MDE issued a COC.
09/02/98	Deed restriction recorded in Baltimore City land records.

**AMERICAN NATIONAL CAN
COMPANY SITE
2400 Boston Street
Baltimore, Maryland
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)**

Site Description

The former American National Can (ANC) Company site is located at the intersection of Boston and Hudson Streets in Baltimore's Inner Harbor district. Built on industrialized fill material, this 4.3-acre site borders the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco River and overlies the Patuxent aquifer.

Between 1895 and 1986, the plant produced finished metal cans from coils of metal stacks and generated industrial waste such as chrome solution, lead dross and organic solvents. Air and oil permits were periodically issued during the latter years of the plant's operation.

The facility closed in 1987 following the merger of the American Can Company with the National Can Corporation to form ANC. The site remained inactive after it was purchased by Plaza Land Association in 1988 for commercial real estate development. Historically, the site was identified as a single parcel but has since been subdivided into two properties.

Environmental Concerns

In the 1980s, two 500-gallon aboveground gasoline storage tanks were removed. Two other areas of environmental concerns at the site, addressed in 1988, were a concrete containment area filled with petroleum contaminated soil and the former location of a 2,000-gallon underground storage tank. Prior to the purchase by Plaza Land Association, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) officials inspected the facilities and verified that the excavated areas had been backfilled with clean soils and noted minimal levels of volatile organics in soils.

On July 5, 1989, MDE's Toxic Environmental Science and Health (TESH), Toxics Operations Program, was alerted to a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) spill by a contractor conducting asbestos removal on the site. Four vandalized transformers, located on the plant's second floor, leaked approximately ten gallons of PCB onto the first floor via a large steel mezzanine. Because PCB levels in the spill area exceeded the Toxic Substances Control Act regulatory limits, MDE/TESH notified the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center and mobilized a remedial contractor to contain and remediate the spill. Cleanup fluid comprising a 50% mixture of penetone and water, material from the spill, and PCB fluids drained from the four vandalized transformers were stored in two 55-gallon drums.

On July 10, 1989, the two drums containing PCB fluids were overturned, resulting in a second PCB spill. Approximately 60 to 80 gallons of PCB contaminated material spread over the first and second floors. In response, MDE/TESH directed the remedial contractor to drain all PCB fluids from all twelve on-site transformers into twenty-five 55-gallon drums, and excavate contaminated PCB soil and concrete for disposal at an approved off-site facility.

In May 1991, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration conducted an Environmental Priorities Initiative (EPI) Preliminary Assessment (PA) at the ANC site to address past disposal practices and current site conditions. Based on information provided from the EPI/PA and other previous investigations, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration concluded that contamination levels found in groundwater and soil samples could be attributed to historic industrial waste management practices in the Harbor district and were not indicative of site specific concerns. The contaminated areas outlined in the EPI/PA were cleaned up to State mandated standards and the contaminated waste disposed of by State certified hazardous waste contractors. In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Status

On May 15, 1997, the prospective purchaser of the property, The Can Company L.L.C., submitted an application to the VCP. MDE requested the collection of additional soil and groundwater samples from former areas of operations. Analysis of subsurface samples, collected in June and July 1997, revealed arsenic, chromium and elevated levels of lead in soils. The status of The Can Company L.L.C. as an inculpable person was approved on August 6, 1997. Ownership of the site was transferred to The Can Company L.L.C. on August 13, 1997. A proposed response action plan developed to address site contaminants was approved by MDE on October 23, 1997 and implemented on October 30, 1997. The work outlined in the response action plan was completed in April 1998.

A Certificate of Completion (COC) was issued by the Department on August 3, 1998 contingent upon future use of the property for industrial and commercial purposes only, and physical maintenance requirements. On September 2, 1998, a deed restriction was recorded in Baltimore City's land records. The property has been redeveloped into an office-retail complex.

Facility Contact

Jim Metz

Maryland Department of the Environment (410) 631-3493
Voluntary Cleanup/Brownfields Division