

**Central Chemical Corporation  
Elkton, Maryland  
Cecil County  
(MD-325)**

**Site Location**

Central Chemical Corporation is located at Zeitler Lane, Triumph Industrial Park, Elkton, Maryland. The 12.12-acre property is located approximately .75 miles southwest of the intersection of the Blue Ball Road entrance to the Triumph Industrial Park.

**Site History**

Triumph Industrial Park was utilized as a munitions manufacturing facility during World War II. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is unable to determine the exact use of the Central Chemical property during World War II, or the use of the property from that time until 1966. However, pre-1966 blueprints indicate the presence of four small structures and what appears to be a warehouse on the Central Chemical site.

In 1966, Central Chemical Corporation purchased the site from the Elkton Company. During the next few years, Central Chemical Corporation developed the property and constructed the existing building and facilities. Following development of the site in the late 1960s, Central Chemical Corporation utilized the facility to mix and hammer-mill dry chemicals including pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides.

The mixing and milling processes utilized at the facility generated solid waste in the form of waste chemicals and liquid waste in the form of "wash-down" water generated from cleaning the equipment. In order to dispose of the solid waste, Central Chemical Corporation installed an industrial waste incinerator (one of the first in the United States). Liquid waste consisted of soapy "wash-down" water and was disposed of as nonhazardous waste by a waste removal and disposal contractor.

**Environmental Investigations**

In 1970, the Maryland Department of Water Resources submitted an order to Central Chemical to cease violations in their handling of wastewater and install an adequate wastewater treatment facility. MDE does not have any records regarding the nature of the violation that resulted in the 1970 order.

In 1987, chlorinated solvents were detected in groundwater samples collected from the production well that exists on the Central Chemical property. The samples were collected as part of the ongoing investigations of the surrounding CERCLA sites (notably G.E. Railcar, W.L. Gore, Thiokol Inc., Crouse Excavation, and the Dwyer Property). As a result of the detection of these contaminants, Central Chemical was placed on the CERCLIS and State Master Lists for further investigation.

In 1989, MDE completed a Preliminary Assessment of the site. The assessment concluded that the detected chlorinated solvent contamination was unlikely to have resulted from on-site activities as no chlorinated solvents were in use in the dry-mixing and milling process and no solvent waste was generated on the property. The assessment further concluded that the detected contamination likely migrated from either the neighboring Thiokol Inc. or G.E. Railcar sites.

Central Chemical stopped using the water from the production well at their facility during the 1980s, and currently uses the well house for storage of flammable materials. Given the lack of an on-site source for the contamination and lack of pathways that pose a risk to human health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required no further remedial action for the property.

### **Current Status**

For the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with EPA, MDE is conducting a site survey of the Central Chemical site. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to enable the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action be taken by EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

### **Contact Person**

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