



Maryland Department of the
Environment

Facts About: Blenheim Road (MD1323)

Site Location:

Blenheim Road is located in a semi-rural, residential area west of the town of Jacksonville in northern Baltimore County. The area is characterized by rolling topography and a mixture of private residences and farms on lots of an acre or more. The area of well contamination described in this fact sheet is located on the west side of Blenheim Road, along a segment of the road between Sweet Air Road (to the north) and Overshot Run (to the south).

Site History:

On May 5, 2006, a resident on Blenheim Road contacted the Maryland Department of the Environment (“Department”) to report the presence of tetrachloroethene at a concentration of 53 parts per billion (“ppb”), in a water sample recently collected from his well. Federal law mandates that tetrachloroethene concentrations not exceed a health-based Maximum Contaminant Level (“MCL”) of 5 ppb in public drinking water supplies. Accordingly, the Department advised the homeowner to discontinue drinking his well water and began an investigation of the extent of the well contamination and possible source areas. To date, contamination has been detected in seven residential wells in the area at concentrations ranging from 7.2 to 460 ppb. Water treatment systems have been installed at each of these homes to ensure that the residents have a clean supply of water. The Department will continue to monitor and maintain these systems until no further contamination is detected.

The Blenheim Road resident who reported the problem told the Department that tetrachloroethene was present in his well at the time he purchased his property in 1992, but because the concentration (4.4 ppb) at that time was below the MCL, it was not a concern. He only recently re-tested his well to be sure it was not impacted by the gasoline release from the Exxon Station in Jacksonville.

Environmental Investigations:

To define the extent of contamination, the Department collected water samples from 16 residential wells on Blenheim Road, Sweet Air Road and Fox Run Court during the period from May 5 to June 7, 2006. Results of this sampling indicated the contamination was limited to seven wells located on the west side of Blenheim Road and does not extend to homes on Fox Run Court, Sweet Air Road, the east side of Blenheim Road, and south of Overshot Run. The Department continues to collect water samples from area wells to confirm that no other homes in the area are affected, monitor contaminant fluctuations in the affected wells, and evaluate treatment system performance.

During the course of the investigation, a garage near the intersection of Blenheim and Sweet Air Roads was implicated as a possible source of the contamination. A subsequent investigation confirmed this location as the source and in September 2008 the Department removed over 3,200 tons of contaminated soil from source area and installed a monitoring well down gradient to monitor the affects of the removal on the groundwater concentrations. Since the removal action was completed, concentrations in the down gradient monitoring well have decreased from a high of 1,400 ppb in May



2007 to 170 ppb in April 2013.

Current Status:

The Department continues to periodically check residential wells in the area and maintain and monitor the affected homes. To date, MDE has noted a slow but steady decrease in the concentration in the monitoring well and the closest residential well, which will hopefully continue as the contaminants flush out of the system through a series of nearby surface springs.

