



Facts About...

Springfield Mine
State Master List Site (MD-590)

Site Location

The 1.2-acre Springfield Mine Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) site is located in a wooded tract of fallow land approximately 900 feet northeast of the Copper Ridge Assisted Living facility at 710 Obrecht Road in Sykesville, Carroll County, Maryland. The site is situated near the center of the 184.3-acre parcel 17 on Carroll County tax map 78 and is zoned for agricultural use.

Site History

In 1849 Isaac Tyson, Jr. opened a mine on the estate of maritime shipping magnate William Patterson. The Springfield Iron and Copper Mine operated until 1869, and then reopened briefly in 1881 and again in 1916. The site was originally two openings on adjacent hills separated by a small stream located one mile north of Sykesville. This mine was the chief source of ore for the Elba Furnace (on the Patapsco River, approximately 3/4-mile southeast of Sykesville). The workings featured a main shaft over 300 feet deep. The mines began producing copper at depths of one hundred feet and have since caved in. Otherwise, the lands in the immediate vicinity of the Springfield Mine were fallow.

The site is now located along a hiking/walking trail with signage identifying the former mine site. The Springfield Mine site is a destination for guided walks for students, rock and mineral collectors and enthusiasts.

Environmental Investigations

In March 2011, MDE conducted sampling for a Site Inspection (SI). Thirteen surface soil samples were collected near the mine shaft, tailings and nearby footpaths and were analyzed for asbestos and metals. No asbestos was identified. Elevated levels of metals were detected in all samples at concentrations that exceeded EPA and MDE benchmarks for residential soil. The Toxicological Evaluation prepared as part of the SI identified elevated risks to all populations evaluated due to elevated concentrations of metals. However, since metals occur naturally at these concentrations in ultramafic rocks and no asbestos was identified, MDE recommended no further investigation at this site.

Current Status

The March 2011 MDE SI report is under review by EPA.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at 410 537-3440.

Last Update: October, 2011

