

ALLIED CHEMICAL AGRICULTURE PLAN
Baltimore, Maryland

Site Location

The Allied Chemical Agriculture Plant is located at 2000 Race Street, Baltimore, Maryland between Race Street and the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The site is a 6.2-acre rectangle, which is bordered on the west by the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, on the north by gas storage tanks, on the east by Race Street and on the south by Swann Park. The river is approximately 200 yards wide at the site and flows toward Baltimore Harbor. No major tributaries to the Middle Branch are within one-half mile up or downstream of the site. Swann Park is a recreational park with ball fields and grassy areas. The site is located inside the city of Baltimore and consequently, most of the drainage has been altered. The elevated portion of I-95 runs east west across the site. The property surrounding the site is zoned industrial, although a few residences are approximately 100 yards south of the site.

Site History

AlliedSignal (Allied Chemical) owned and operated the property from the 1930s through 1976 as an agricultural chemical production and re-packaging facility. In 1958, 200 tons of wastes from chromium chemical production at the Allied Chemical Baltimore Works were disposed of at the Race Street site. The site was also used to dispose of herbicide and pesticide wastes from the agricultural chemical plant. Wastes were placed up to 20 feet below the surface and spread across most of the site.

The City of Baltimore purchased the property in 1977 when Interstate Highway I-95 was continued through the area. To facilitate the highway construction, the buildings on the property were decontaminated, demolished and buried in place. The entire site was then covered with a clay and asphalt cap.

In November 1980, the City of Baltimore (the owner) obtained a Designated Hazardous Substances (DHS) facility permit (DHS Permit A-156) from the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This permit allows the city to operate a Type C facility at 2000 Race Street. A Type C facility is no longer operated as a DHS facility, but is permanently maintained. The permit obligated the City to maintain the cap, provide security for the property, and sample the groundwater on a quarterly basis.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

According to the 1979 *Waste Disposal Site Survey* prepared by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Subcommittee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (The Eckhardt Report), the site was used in 1958 to dispose of 200 tons of chromium chemicals production waste. The waste was generated by the Allied Chemical facility at Block and Wills Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

The chemical facility manufactured chromium chemicals and generated a chromium ore tailings waste containing heavy metals.

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Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

Purportedly in 1976, Geraghty and Miller drilled soil borings and installed monitoring wells on the site. A chemical analysis of groundwater collected on October 21, 1981 found 14 parts per billion (ppb) hexavalent chromium, 40 ppb lead, and 5,789 ppb arsenic.

In February 1981, the Maryland Water Resources Administration (WRA) required that Allied cap the site with blacktop and install monitoring wells as part of the site closure plan. The cap was mounded and surface water runoff is collected and discharged via storm water drains. Allied was required to periodically test the monitoring wells and report test results to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

In 1982, the Waste Management Administration of DHMH inspected the site and as a result of observed conditions, issued a complaint and ordered the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to repair and seal all cracked and deteriorated asphalt on the site and install new monitoring wells to replace the ineffective ones.

A May 3, 1983, *Site Inspection* report noted that 21 tons of pesticide waste and 200 tons of chromium ore tailings had been deposited on the site. The report also noted that analyses of soil boring performed in 1976 by Geraghty and Miller indicate high concentrations of heavy metals in the soils, and samples from the monitoring wells indicated contamination of groundwater. Two monitoring wells were sampled, and substantial concentrations of arsenic in the downgradient well were identified.

In August 1998, a post-closure assessment work plan was prepared to assess the condition of the cap, the security of the property and the potential off-site impacts related to material contained at the site.

Current Status

A Risk Assessment and assessment of the site were being prepared, as of late 2001.

Facility Contacts

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Last Update: