

MD-108
Prince George's County

CAPITOL WIRE AND FENCE
Hyattsville, Maryland

1976	Manufacture of galvanized fence material began.
1979	Capitol Wire and Fence leased the site and redesigned the plant.
1983	Site purchased by Mr. Glendal Harris et al. Site used as recycling center for demolition.
1980/81	<i>Notification of Hazardous Waste Site</i> form filed.
1985	<i>Preliminary Assessment</i> report prepared for EPA.
1987	<i>Site Inspection</i> report prepared for EPA by NUS Corporation.
1988	Site purchased by HMH Partnership and leased to Metrex Excavating and D.C. Materials.
1992	MDE prepared a <i>Level I Site Inspection</i> and recommended No Further Remedial Action Planned status.
1999	MDE prepared a <i>Site Survey</i> reporting Capitol Wire and Fence was no longer at the site.

Site Location

The Capitol Wire and Fence site is located in Prince George's County, at 3334 Kenilworth Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. The geographic coordinates are 38°55'50" North and 76°56'10" West. The site, which covers 6.91 acres, is bounded by Anacostia River Park to the west and Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks to the east. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is to the south and other industrial sites, including a sewage treatment plant, are to the north. The site slopes very gently to the west.

Site History

The early site history is uncertain other than an anecdotal report that a cinder block manufacturer occupied the site prior to 1976. In 1976, Jack Long of the Security Fence Company purchased the site and manufactured galvanized fence material. Capitol Wire and Fence Company leased the site in 1979, redesigned the plant, and continued to manufacture galvanized fence until 1983 when they moved to Baltimore. Mr. Long sold the site to Glendal Harris et al. who used the site as a recycling center for demolition. In 1988, HMH Partnership purchased the site and leased it to Metrex Excavating and D.C. Materials. As of 1999, D.C. Materials was using the site as a recycling center of construction debris and Metrex was using the site as an office location. Metrex reported they reclaimed the site extensively in the early 1990s by regrading the land, as well and removing PVC pipes and waste debris left over from Capitol Wire and Fence's operations.

Environmental Investigations

In 1981, Capitol Wire and Fence Company filed a *Notification of Hazardous Waste Site* form with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), indicating the total waste amount at the facility of 3,000 gallons in tanks.

A *Preliminary Assessment* report prepared for the EPA in 1985 describes the controversy related to past practices at the site for disposing of waste pickle liquor (10 percent sulfuric acid) to an on-site pit. The liquor was used to clean fence materials prior to galvanizing. The alleged disposal pit was at the back end of the plant, about 20 feet from a swamp that is part of the Anacostia River basin. Capitol Wire and Fence accused the previous owner of discharging approximately 16,000 gallons of waste per year to the pit. Capitol Wire and Fence provided waste disposal manifests showing a waste hauler had removed their waste since December 1980. They stated there was only dead vegetation or no vegetation for a great distance surrounding the pit area when they purchased the plant. The Preliminary Assessment speculated, on the basis of site conditions during two site visits, that Capitol Wire and Fence used the pit area as a dump for certain materials and then bulldozed and smoothed the surface as needed.

In 1987, a *Site Inspection* report prepared by NUS Corporation for EPA indicated elevated levels of organic and inorganic compounds were detected in five surface water and eight solid samples collected both on and off site. The toxicological evaluation concluded the contamination posed no threat to human health because there were no drinking water supplies within three miles of the site.

In 1992, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) performed a *Level I Site Inspection* and recommended a site status of No Further Remedial Action Planned to EPA, and EPA concurred.

In 1999, the MDE prepared a *Site Survey* of the property, reporting that Capitol Wire and Fence no longer operated at the site and all evidence of the previous operation had been removed. The site at that time consisted of one office building at 3334 Kenilworth Avenue, an abandoned building at 3336 Kenilworth Avenue, and mounds of construction debris (gravel, concrete, and asphalt) west of the two buildings.

Current Status

The Formerly Investigated Sites List identifies State Master List sites at which the MDE has determined, on the basis of available information, that no further action by the State is planned.

Facility Contact

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