

**JOHNSON PROPERTY LANDFILL (MD-462)
Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland**

Site Location

The 5.6-acre Johnson Property site is located at the intersection of Sewell and Bush Roads south of Harris Road in Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland. The site, a former rubble fill, is located in a rural area southeast of I-95, approximately ¼ mile south of the Bush Valley Landfill National Priorities List site. The site owners, William J. Johnson, Jr. and Deborah A. Johnson, live in a private residence on a parcel immediately west of the rubble fill. No fences or barriers restrict access at the site. The site slopes east toward Bush Road.

Site History

The Johnson Property site was operated as a gravel pit during the 1950s and 1960s. It is alleged that, during the 1970s and 1980s, the Johnson Property operated as an unpermitted and unsupervised rubble fill for the deposit of brick, block, brush, stumps, and other construction debris. After its closure sometime in the 1980s, the site was capped with soil and is now thickly vegetated. There are no allegations of dumping of hazardous wastes at the site.

In July 1990, the Hidden Stream Development Corporation purchased a number of parcels in the Abingdon area for construction of Phases II and III of a 123-acre residential development (Hidden Stream). The Johnson Property was one of the parcels included in the purchase. Consequently, the Harford County Health Department initiated efforts to have the Johnson Property placed on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) list for environmental assessment.

The land records office indicates that the parcel was granted to William and Deborah Johnson on April 18, 1988. The grantor of the property was Mr. William J. Johnson, Sr. by his attorney, Shirley Louise Miller.

Environmental Investigations

In 1991, the Harford County Health Department requested that the property be investigated as a potential hazardous waste site. Its close proximity to the Bush Valley Landfill, a National Priorities List site, raised questions of whether waste intended for Bush Valley ended up in the Johnson property rubble fill.

In 1992, an environmental investigation of three parcels, including the Johnson property, was performed by Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. to assess the nature and extent of any environmental contamination. A soil gas survey and groundwater samples collected from a monitoring well installed downgradient from the Johnson property indicated that the site was not adversely impacting the environment.

A 1993 Preliminary Assessment concluded that a more detailed site inspection of the site would be needed to determine any risks associated with this site. A sampling proposal for a Site Inspection was accepted by EPA in January 1995. Samples of soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater were collected on January 24, 1995.

Elevated levels of lead and manganese were detected in a residential well and monitoring well, respectively. With the exception of low levels of laboratory contamination in the sampling results, no organic environmental contamination was detected in any of the groundwater samples. Low level polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons were detected in both soil and sediment samples, but were below EPA's Region III Risk-Based Concentrations. Arsenic and dieldrin were detected in one soil sample at levels above the RBC values. No other organic contamination was detected in the sediment samples. Other than common laboratory contamination, no organic contamination was detected in the surface water samples. Elevated levels of manganese were detected in one surface water sample.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified in the CERCLIS. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Contact

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