



Maryland Department  
of the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT:

### MTA Eastern Avenue Bus Facility

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**ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION  
MTA EASTERN AVENUE BUS FACILITY  
201 SOUTH OLDHAM STREET, BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND  
MDE CASE NO. 1991-0650BC (OPEN)**

#### **SITE LOCATION**

The Maryland Department of the Environment Oil Control Program (MDE-OCP), in coordination with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), is evaluating the impacts of petroleum products at the MTA Eastern Avenue Bus Facility located at 201 South Oldham Street. The facility formerly operated 13 registered underground storage tank (UST) systems at various time periods since at least the 1970s. Currently there are no active USTs at the facility and all registered USTs have been closed by removal or abandonment in-place. Fuel at the site is now stored in aboveground storage tanks. The area is served by Baltimore City municipal water and sewer.

#### **SITE HISTORY**

Oil spills have occurred periodically during operation of the MTA Eastern Avenue Bus Facility and there are several closed MDE-OCP cases. Liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) (i.e. product) have been detected in on-site groundwater monitoring wells since at least 1982. The MDE-OCP opened Case No. 1991-0650BC in October 1990 after a reported release from one or more diesel UST systems. The MDE-OCP issued Notice of Violation NV-91-095 in January 1991 due to the presence of approximately 3 feet of LPH in a monitoring well and the presence of LPH in tank field containment sumps. In September 2002, MTA reported a diesel fuel release from product piping associated with the three 20,000-gallon diesel USTs. The MDE-OCP required an environmental investigation, product recovery, and a corrective action plan (CAP) in November 2003. Notice of Violation NV-2005-032 was issued in January 2005 due to the presence of up to 4 feet of LPH in four on-site monitoring wells and failure to implement MDE-OCP requirements. The three 20,000-gallon diesel USTs were abandoned in-place in September 2008.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS**

At the time this case was opened in 1990, multiple monitoring wells existed on the property. Seven additional monitoring wells were installed in 1991 and product was recovered via hand bailing. Periodic enhanced fluid recovery (EFR) events were conducted following the 2002 release to recover product. In July 2005, six borings were completed with temporary wells in the



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vicinity of the three 20,000-gallon UST systems and two monitoring wells were installed in the tank field in July 2008. The temporary wells that contained LPH were converted to permanent 4-inch monitoring wells in July 2009; product was not detected in the two monitoring wells installed in the tank field. Several additional EFR events were conducted in 2009 and 2010 to recover product. In the third and fourth quarter of 2010, greater than 1 foot of LPH was detected in monitoring well MW-23, located along the western portion of the site. The MDE-OCP required a work plan to delineate the extent of product and four additional wells were installed in January 2012: one on-site and three off-site along South Oldham Street. By February 2012, approximately 13 feet of LPH were detected in one off-site monitoring well and approximately 3 feet of LPH were detected in another off-site monitoring well. Groundwater occurs at depths between approximately 25 and 35 feet below the ground surface. Currently, there are a total of 21 monitoring wells on-site and 3 monitoring wells off-site.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

Following the discovery LPH in two of the three off-site monitoring wells along South Oldham Street, MDE-OCP required weekly product bailing and a work plan to further delineate the petroleum contamination off-site. The work plan was approved in July 2012 to install six additional monitoring wells in the sidewalk areas along South Oldham Street. The MDE-OCP issued Notice of Non-Compliance NNC-OCP-2013-012 in December 2012 due to the delay in investigating the extent of petroleum contamination. The MTA has been conducting weekly EFR events to recover product since December 2012. The additional off-site monitoring wells are scheduled for installation in February 2013.

## **FUTURE UPDATES**

- File available at the MDE Headquarters

## **CONTACTS**

- Maryland Department of the Environment – Oil Control Program: 410-537-3442
- Maryland Transit Administration: 410-454-7317

## **DISCLAIMER**

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, MDE recommends that the reader review the case file that is available at MDE through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.