



# 68<sup>th</sup> Street Dump Site Baltimore County, Maryland Superfund Update

USEPA Region 3

March 2011

## 68th Street Dump Site Superfund Program

The 68<sup>th</sup> Street Dump Site consists of approximately 239 acres of undeveloped land located near Rosedale in Baltimore County. The Site has been divided into five Management Areas (MAs) for planning purposes (see Map 1). Portions of each MA were once used as landfills for the disposal of primarily municipal, industrial and commercial refuse. The Site has remained undeveloped and unused except for random dumping of surface debris by unauthorized trespassers since the landfills were closed before or in the early 1970's. Trespassers currently use the Site for recreational purposes.



Map 1

The 68<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill Sites Coalition (Coalition) is a group of approximately 22 companies and governments working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to clean-up the Site. In April 2006, the Coalition entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (ASAOC) with the USEPA and agreed to conduct a comprehensive environmental investigation and to develop a remediation plan that incorporates preliminary re-use alternatives for the Site. The Coalition completed a number of site-related documents, including site-wide management plans, environmental investigation work plans, a preliminary re-use assessment, and an early action response report under the ASAOC. The documents that were reviewed and approved by the USEPA and other state and federal regulatory agencies are posted on the USEPA and Coalition websites, and may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/MDD980918387/html>  
and  
[www.68thstreetlandfillsite.com](http://www.68thstreetlandfillsite.com)

These documents may be accessed through the internet available on any public library or personal computer. They may also be viewed in person at the USEPA-Region 3 offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## What Has Been Accomplished?

Most recently, a Remedial Investigation (RI) Report was completed that is based upon the field investigations conducted at the Site since 2008. The report summarizes the findings of the investigations and identifies the nature and extent of contamination and the risk posed by the Site to humans and the natural environment. The RI Report is currently being reviewed by the USEPA, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and other supporting regulatory agencies. The RI findings are based, in part, on the following preliminary studies and actions:

## 1. Early Removal Action (ERA)

The ERA was performed at the Site during the Summer of 2008. It was intended to immediately reduce the human health and ecological risks posed by surface contamination and debris to on-site workers, trespassers, and wildlife. The ERA consisted of the removal of drums, contaminated soils, and other waste materials observed at the surface of the Site. Additionally, warning signs listing the status of the property and informational contacts were installed in the locations indicated by the blue squares on Map 1.

## 2. Field Characterization

The field characterization activities associated with the RI began in July 2008 and were completed in October 2010. The goals of the field characterization were to better define the limits of past landfilling activities, to determine the nature and extent of contamination, and to aid in the development of human health and ecological risk assessments for the Site. The field investigations mainly consisted of collecting samples from a variety of environmental media (soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil gas) and biological media (microbes, invertebrates, fish, and plants).



Environmental and biological samples were evaluated using a combination of field screening tests and laboratory analyses. Additional characterization activities at the Site included a stream flow evaluation, a geotechnical evaluation, a series of geophysical surveys and test pits, and an ecological habitat survey.

Completion of the field investigation is a major milestone in the completion of the Site RI/FS, and the effort expended to achieve this goal was significant. A summary of samples collected during this field investigation is provided in the table below. The samples supplemented data from prior Site investigations.

| Type of Sample Collected     | Number of Samples |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Groundwater Monitoring Wells | 69                |
| Piezometers                  | 4                 |
| Geotechnical Borings         | 27                |
| Test Pits                    | 53                |
| Cover Thickness Borings      | 161               |
| Soil Samples                 | 72                |
| Groundwater Samples          | 59                |
| Surface-Water Samples        | 54                |
| Sediment Samples             | 35                |
| Soil Gas Samples             | 34                |
| Geophysical Transects        | 51                |
| Fish Tissue Samples          | 10                |

## Findings of the Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessments

Based on the Site-specific field investigations and human health and ecological risk assessments, preliminary findings are as follows:

- The landfilled materials consist of municipal, industrial and commercial wastes, including incinerator ash and waste oils.
- Soil cover is present over the waste in most former landfilled locations.
- The majority of the Site is well vegetated.
- Communities and residents downstream of the Site do not rely on groundwater for their water supply.
- Groundwater contamination appears to be limited to on-site, and the groundwater discharges to the surface-water streams.
- Surface-water quality in the main streams does not exceed risk-based standards.
- Seepage discharging to the surface water streams and on-site ponds presents limited ecological risks in some locations.
- Surface debris presents the most immediate safety hazard at the Site.

The results of the field investigations were presented to the USEPA, the MDE, and the Natural Resources Trustees including the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in the RI Report submitted in November 2010. The Report is currently being reviewed; therefore, the preliminary conclusions listed above may be revised.

### What is the Schedule?

At this time, the Coalition is preparing both a Re-use Assessment and a Feasibility Study (FS) based on the findings of the RI. The Re-use Assessment will identify and assess potential future use options for portions of the Site. The FS Report will identify and evaluate remedial alternatives and clean-up objectives to address the potential risks posed by the Site.

With the recent completion of the field investigations and the submittal of the RI Report, it is anticipated that the Re-use Assessment and FS Report will be presented to the regulatory agencies in late Winter 2011 for review. After review and finalization of these three documents, the

USEPA will select one or multiple preferred alternatives for the Site and develop a Proposed Plan for clean-up. The Proposed Plan will be made available to the public for review and comment. It is expected that the formal comment period on the Proposed Plan will take place during the late Summer of 2011.

### When is the Next Community Involvement Opportunity?

Opportunities for interested community members to provide input to the clean-up and redevelopment process are available on a continuing basis by contacting the USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator (Ms. Carrie Deitzel), listed below. In addition, informal public information sessions and required public comment periods will be held at key project milestones. The next public information session is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2011, after the Re-use Assessment and FS Reports are preliminarily reviewed by the USEPA. Input on both remedies and re-use will be sought. The findings of the RI Report, as presented in this Fact Sheet, will also be discussed with community members at that time.

Public notices of upcoming events, including public information sessions, will appear in *The Avenue*, a weekly newspaper, and *The Examiner*, a daily newspaper. Direct mailings will also be sent to those on the most current USEPA mailing and e-mailing lists. Site-specific information will be available on the USEPA website.

### For more information about this site, please contact:

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