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## Woodlawn Landfill Superfund Site

Cecil County, Maryland

### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) are supervising activities at the Woodlawn Landfill Superfund Site. As part of its effort to keep residents informed, EPA has prepared this fact sheet. It will tell you:

- What has happened at the Site in the past
- What will happen next
- How to get more information

### Site Background

The Woodlawn Landfill Superfund Site is located in Cecil County, Maryland, southwest of the intersection of Firetower and Waibel Roads. The Site was originally owned by a mining company and used as a sand and gravel quarry. In 1965, Cecil County bought the property for use as a county landfill.

In January 1978, the State of Maryland ordered the closure of the landfill, which contained agricultural, municipal, and industrial wastes. Disposal of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sludge continued, under the terms of an industrial waste disposal permit, until 1981. In 1982, the State, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, and Cecil County placed wells on the Site to monitor ground water quality. (Ground water, found beneath the earth's surface, is a major source of drinking water in the area of the Site.)

EPA evaluated the Site to determine if the hazardous chemicals there posed a potential threat to human health and the environment. In July 1987, EPA included the Woodlawn Landfill Site on the National Priorities List, the list of abandoned or uncontrolled

hazardous waste sites which EPA can address under the Superfund program. EPA identified Firestone Tire & Rubber Company (now Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.) and Cecil County as Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). PRPs are companies or individuals who are potentially responsible for, or contributed to, the hazardous substances at a Superfund site. They can be facility owners or operators, generators of hazardous substances, or transporters.

In December 1988, EPA and MDE began supervising a Remedial Investigation (RI) of the Site. The RI, which the PRPs are conducting, will:

- Determine the nature and extent of Site-related contamination
- Provide information necessary to conduct a risk assessment for the Site.

The risk assessment will look at the possible ways that Site-related contamination can affect human health and/or the environment.

### Public Meeting

**EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss current activities at the Woodlawn Landfill Site. EPA staff will be on hand to update you on recent Site activities and address any questions you might have about the Site. Meeting date, time, and location are:**

**Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.  
Perryville High School  
1696 Perryville Road  
Perryville, Maryland**

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## What is Superfund?

Superfund is designed to address the problems caused by past hazardous waste disposal and handling practices. This law, officially known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), was passed by Congress in 1980. It gives EPA the authority to:

- Take immediate action to stop releases or potential releases of hazardous substances
- Take long-term action to address abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites

Superfund also provides money from a special tax on the chemical and petroleum industries to pay for long-term action. EPA uses this Superfund money when no other sources of money are available.

## What Has Happened Recently?

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County conducted three rounds of ground water sampling during the Remedial Investigation. They installed seven additional monitoring wells on the Site, five monitoring wells immediately west of the Site, and one monitoring well several hundred feet north of the Site. In addition, they sampled thirteen domestic wells located on properties near the Site. EPA sampled seven additional domestic wells. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County used ground water monitoring results to develop a computer model to approximate the direction and speed of ground water flow and predict how Site contamination might spread.

*Site Ground Water.* Ground water samples taken from onsite monitoring wells during the past year

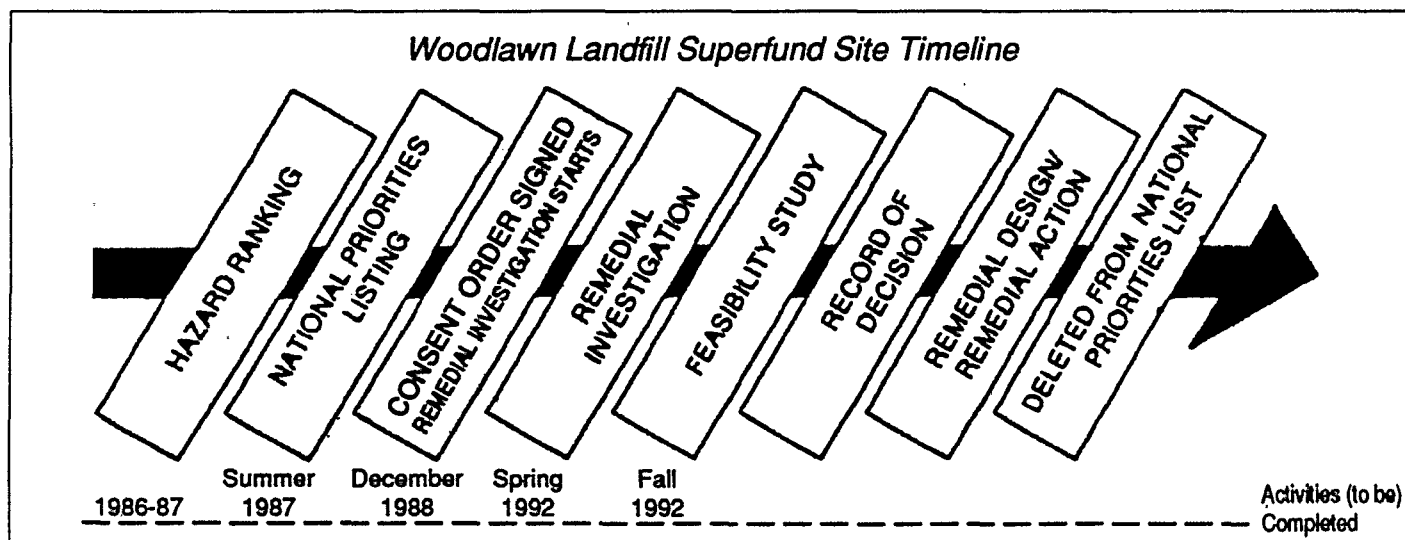
have confirmed earlier data indicating chemical contamination. The chemicals detected include vinyl chloride, phthalates, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. EPA classifies some of the chemicals detected during ground water sampling as hazardous (posing a threat to human health and/or the environment).

*Offsite Ground Water.* Trace amounts of vinyl chloride were detected in one domestic well on a property located northeast of the Site. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County (under EPA and MDE supervision) have been sampling this well at regular intervals since November 1990. The highest concentration of vinyl chloride measured in this well was 0.6 parts per billion (ppb). This is lower than the limit set by EPA for vinyl chloride in public drinking water. This limit, known as the Maximum Contaminant Level, is 2 ppb. Samples from other domestic wells on properties near the Site have not shown any Site-related chemicals present at levels exceeding EPA's Primary Drinking Water Standards.

*Sediments and Surface Water.* Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County have sampled and analyzed sediments (soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water) and surface water in the creek which runs across the Site's southern tip. None of the water samples from the creek contained chemicals at levels exceeding Federal Ambient Water Quality Criteria.

## What Will Happen Next?

During the next few months, EPA and MDE expect to review updated plans to dispose of the containerized soils and water generated during installation of new monitoring wells. EPA will supervise the disposal of



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the soils and water at an EPA-approved hazardous waste facility located out-of-state.

Cecil County is currently conducting sampling to determine if past discharges from the Woodlawn transfer station septic system may have contributed to hazardous substances found at the Site. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County will include the results of this and other sampling, as well as a human health and environmental risk assessment, in a final Remedial Investigation report. In March 1992, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County will submit this final Remedial Investigation report and a preliminary Feasibility Study to EPA. The Feasibility Study will use the information in the Remedial Investigation and analyze different methods of addressing Site contamination, known as remedial alternatives.

Three and a half months after EPA approves the Remedial Investigation report and preliminary Feasibility Study, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Cecil County will submit a final Feasibility Study to EPA. EPA will use the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to develop a Proposed Plan. This Plan will summarize the results of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, describe all the remedial alternatives, and state which alternative EPA prefers.

When it issues the Proposed Plan, EPA will also open a 30-day public comment period, during which it will hold a public meeting and actively solicit public comments and opinions. Although EPA provides opportunities for public participation throughout the Superfund process, input from residents and local officials is particularly important during the public comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, EPA, after reviewing all the comments it has received, will issue a Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will announce EPA's final selection of a remedial alternative.

### **Technical Assistance Grant Program**

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Because Superfund documents tend to be very detailed and highly technical in nature, Congress authorized EPA to create a program that would enable citizens to get help in interpreting these documents. In response, EPA developed the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program, which makes up to \$50,000 available for each Superfund site so that, at a given site, bona fide citizens group with demonstrated interest in the site can hire its own expert or consultant.

Each citizens group which receives a grant for a

Superfund site must share its information with the community in general, thereby assuring that everyone with an interest in that site is kept informed. The primary purpose of the Technical Assistance Grant is to give citizens a chance to have an expert of their own choosing explain Superfund activities. This assistance improves citizens' ability to assume an informed, intelligent role in the Superfund process.

For more information about the TAG program, please contact Al Peterson at the address and phone number listed below.

### **Where to Find Site Documents**

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In order to give residents access to information about the Site and the Superfund process, EPA has established local information repositories. The repositories are located at these libraries:

Elkton Public Library  
301 Newark Avenue  
Elkton, MD 21903  
(301) 398-0914

Hours: Mon. — Thurs., 9:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.  
Fri. — Sat., 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Perryville Public Library  
515 Broad Street  
Perryville, MD 21903  
(301) 642-2744

Hours: Mon. — Wed., 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.  
Thurs., 12:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
Sat., 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

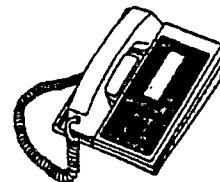
### **Your EPA and MDE Contact Persons**

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If you would like more information, or have any questions or concerns about the Woodlawn Landfill Site, please contact one of these officials:

Al Peterson (3EA21)  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 597-7710

John Fairbank  
Project Manager  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
(301) 631-3437



AR500029

**Mailing List Additions**

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive additional fact sheets about the Woodlawn Landfill Site, please complete the form below and mail it to: Al Peterson (3EA21), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions and Comments**

If you have a question or comment about the Woodlawn Landfill Site, please write it below and mail it to Al Peterson at the address listed above.

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**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107**



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