

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Screening Investigations of Potential Areas of Concern

May 2012

The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was listed as a "Superfund" site in 1994, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). BARC is a facility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS).

Background

As part of the BARC CERCLA Program, ARS has been conducting a systematic review of the BARC property to identify and investigate potential Areas of Concern (AOCs) on the facility.

Potential AOCs were evaluated through a detailed process that included an aerial photographic analysis, a field reconnaissance, a thorough records search and file review, and extensive employee interviews. The information compiled throughout this process provided the information needed for USDA-ARS and EPA to determine which AOCs warrant further CERCLA investigation, such as site screening. Of the 167 potential AOCs identified, 62 AOCs have been recommended for further investigation. These AOCs have undergone further investigation as part of a site screening process (SSP) and/or a remedial investigation (RI).

Site Screening Process

The Site Screening Process (SSP) is a mechanism used to determine if an AOC requires remedial action, needs further study through the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process, or if no further action is needed.

The AOCs summarized in these tables have been investigated under an SSP. Significant progress has been made in completing screening investigations, and completing cleanups where they are needed.

Table 1 identifies the 38 AOCs that have been designated for "no further action." These AOCs have been closed out of the SSP because they have no significant human health or ecological concerns, based on an evaluation of the findings by EPA. Closeout Reports for each of these AOCs are being prepared to document the findings from investigations, and formally close out the investigation process.

Table 2 summarizes the status of 7 AOCs that remain active under the SSP, some of which may eventually be designated for cleanup.

Table 3 lists an additional 2 AOCs that are in various stages of an RI.

Table 4 lists 15 sites where cleanups have been completed, planned, or may be required for completion in the near future.

For More Information:

Visit the ARS Information Repository website at <http://ars.usda.dandp.com/barcsuperfund/> or contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, at 301-504-1637 or Kim.Kaplan@ars.usda.gov regarding other ways to view the ARS Information Repository.

Table 1. AOCs Designated “No Further Action” for Ecological and Human Health Risk

AOC Name/ Number	Summary	Location
BARC 2 South Farm Dump	Gravel pit used to dispose of municipal waste and small amounts of other wastes in the 1950s and 1960s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	South Farm. On a crest of a hill, adjacent to a PEPCO powerline right-of-way, 150 ft. west of Orchard Loop Road.
BARC 3 North Farm Dump	Pit used to dispose of debris and possibly small amounts of other wastes in the 1950s. <i>Field work completed.</i>	North Farm. 400 ft. southwest of the intersection of Cherry Hill Road and Service Road.
BARC 5 Herbicide Washdown Area	Open field used for burning trash and disposing of herbicide contaminated rinse water. <i>Field work completed.</i>	North Farm. 700 ft. south of B-041 in a fenced area east of West Drive.
BARC 8 Animal Parasitology Unit (APU) Waste Dump	Disposal site for waste from the APU. Utilized in the late 1960s through the 1980s. <i>Initial field work completed, Spring 2000. Follow-on sampling completed Spring 2004.</i>	Central Farm. Southern bank of the Beaver Dam Creek floodplain, 1,200 ft. north of the intersection of Edmonston Road and the APU western entry gate.
BARC 9 Dump Off Odell Road	Gravel pit and surrounding area used for general refuse disposal in the late 1950s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. South of Odell Road and east of the Poultry Area.
BARC 10 B-301 Washdown Area	Washdown and storage area for farm equipment used on East Farm. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 400 ft. northeast of the intersection of Beaver Dam and Research Roads.
BARC 11 Dump East of B-409	Ravines used for disposal of general refuse and possibly other wastes in the 1960s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 700 ft. northeast of B-402.
BARC 17 B-064 Scrap Area	Wooded site used to store materials and farm equipment. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	South Farm. Along a wooded service lane, approximately 900 ft. southwest of Paint Branch and 300 ft. southeast of B-060.
BARC 26 Dump Off Poultry Road	Former trenched area containing surface debris including bottles. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. On a hillside east of Poultry Farm, approximately 800 to 1,000 ft. east of B-255A.
BARC 30 Chemical Storage Shed Behind Water Tower	Former location of 2 small sheds containing a small amount of chemicals inside and broken glass outside. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. East of the intersection of Zoology and Entomology Roads, 500 ft. north of the B-453 water tower.
BARC 34 Drum Disposal Area	Surface disposal of empty drums, rubble and pipe. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Initial field work completed, Summer 2000. Follow-on field work completed Summer 2002.</i>	East Farm. 1,000 ft. east of Soil Conservation Service Road, adjacent to an unnamed service lane.
BARC 34A Fill Area Behind B-537	Surface disposal of 10 empty 55-gallon drums. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed, Summer 2000. Follow-on field work completed Summer 2002.</i>	East Farm. 800 ft. east of B-537 and B-538, at the end of an unnamed service lane.

Table 1 (continued). AOCs Designated “No Further Action” for Ecological and Human Health Risk

AOC Name/ Number	Summary	Location
BARC 35 Chicken Hill	Burial and surface disposal of poultry manure and small amounts of debris from the 1950s until 1980. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	East Farm. On the west side of Springfield Road, 800 ft. southeast of the BARC airfield access gate.
BARC 41 Underground Storage Tank at B-312	Area where a former underground storage tank was located. Tank was excavated in 1990. Adjacent building used for chemical storage. <i>Initial field work completed, Winter 1998. Follow-on sampling completed.</i>	Central Farm. North of Powder Mill Road at B-312.
BARC 44 Dump in Woods at Airport	Natural depression filled with miscellaneous debris. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	East Farm. 600 ft. west of B-605, in a woodland area along the northern edge of the old BARC airfield.
BHNRC Disposal/Fill area behind B-307	Disposal area containing miscellaneous debris identified during unrelated excavation in Winter 2001. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm: Open area directly behind B-307.
EPIC 9 Open Storage	Historically used for coal storage and a service area. Occasional ground scarring was observed. <i>Field work completed.</i>	North Farm. Southwest of the intersection of North Drive and 5th Street, at the site of B-013 and B-013A.
EPIC 11 Open Storage	Utilized as a storage area from the 1960s until 1970s. Currently a service yard. <i>Initial field work completed, Winter 1999. Follow-on sampling completed.</i>	North Farm. Near the intersection of South Drive and 2nd Street, on the west side of B-008.
EPIC 21 Open Storage	Manure composting area with adjacent decontamination trough active until 1970. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 500 ft. northwest of B-1002 in the northwestern portion of the APU.
EPIC 23 Undetermined	Location of a pipe outfall, possibly for tile drainage system. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 1,000 ft. west of B-1423, within the APU.
EPIC 31 Disposal/Fill Area	Area used for disposal of rubble and other miscellaneous debris in the 1930s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Geophysical study and test pit investigations completed March 2008. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 250 ft. east of B-301F and south of the BARC Visitors Center.
EPIC 34 Disposal/Fill Area	Disposal area utilized in the 1950s. <i>Various debris located in small depressions. Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Additional field sampling completed in 2010 to further investigate ecological issues. Follow-on field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 600 ft. east of the intersection of Zoology and Center Roads, adjacent to B-314.
EPIC 39 Disposal/Fill Area	Area potentially used for agricultural research in the 1970s and later used to store greenhouse materials. <i>Surface debris removal completed Fall 1998. Follow-on field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 1,000 ft. southeast of B-459 in a wooded area north of Powder Mill Road.
FDA 1 Overgrown Clearing on Edge of Woods and Animal Pen	Disposal area containing construction debris and laboratory bottles. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 700 ft. southeast of B-335D within the former FDA complex.

Table 1 (continued). AOCs Designated “No Further Action” for Ecological and Human Health Risk

AOC Name/ Number	Summary	Location
ENTECH M6 B-029 Service Yard	Miscellaneous ground scarring and surficial discoloration at an area utilized for maintenance activities and storage. <i>Field work completed.</i>	North Farm. In the northwestern portion of North Farm, at the intersection of Peach Orchard and Shop Drives.
ENTECH M12 Woodland Scarring/Clearing	Ground scarring and clearing was identified in aerial photography from 1937. Laboratory bottles and miscellaneous debris located onsite. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 700 ft. west of B-191 (a residential unit) and east of Edmonston Road.
ENTECH M16 Possible Excavation Site	Excavation area in late 1930s that was later fenced off. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 200 ft. north of Beaver Dam Road and south of the Dairy Research Facility.
ENTECH M22 Possible Fill Area	Land scarring was identified in late 1930s aerial photography. This area was later used for disposal of miscellaneous debris. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 200 ft. south of B-425, along a utility corridor.
ENTECH M23 Fill Area	Fill area utilized in the 1940s. A discharge pipe was identified in this area from an undetermined source. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 375 ft. northeast of the intersection of Research and Beaver Dam Roads and adjacent to the Farm Services Complex.
ENTECH M26 Shooting Range	Shooting range operational from 1987 until present. <i>Initial field work completed, Summer 2000. Baseline sampling and soil treatment to stabilize lead in soils completed, and post-treatment monitoring has been initiated.</i>	East Farm. Southwest of the intersection of Beaver Dam and SCS Roads, 800 ft. southwest of B-506.
ENTECH 3 Public Fueling Station	Site of former public fueling station, possibly containing underground storage tanks. <i>Field work completed.</i>	North Farm. Southwestern corner of the intersection of Baltimore Avenue (Route 1) and Circle Drive.
ENTECH 15 UST Removal	Site of underground storage tank removal in 1977 and small mounded piles of debris. <i>Initial field work completed, December 1998. Follow-on sampling completed Spring 2004 to investigate groundwater contamination. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. At B-309, encompassing areas north, east, and south of the building.
ENTECH 20 Runway Destruction Activity	Remnants of excavated runway, composting mounds, and miscellaneous rubble. <i>Field work completed, Summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed.</i>	East Farm. Encompasses the north/south- and east/west- oriented runways of the old BARC airfield.
ENTECH R2 NASA Laser Test Mast	Location of former NASA radio/laser test station. Surficial debris and potential groundwater monitoring well present. <i>Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 900 ft. southeast of an elevated water tank (B-453), and north of Powder Mill Road.
ENTECH R3 Possible Disposal Area	Area that formerly housed chicken coops and now contains their dilapidated remnants along with other miscellaneous surface debris. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	Central Farm. 100 ft. south of B-240 and west of the former FDA facility.

Table 1 (continued). AOCs Designated “No Further Action” for Ecological and Human Health Risk

ENTECH R5 Building Remains and Debris	Building remains and debris located in area, may have been used for research prior to 1960s and the potential dumping of miscellaneous wastes. Field work completed.	Linkage Farm. 600 ft. southeast of the National Agricultural Library and 200 ft. north of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Park.
ENTECH R13 Surface Disposal	Area used to store potting soil. Potential pesticide dumping in area. <i>Field work completed, Winter 1998.</i>	Central Farm. 25 ft. north of B-412A, east of Biocontrol Road.
ENTECH R15 Surface Dumping Area	Disposal site containing several mounds of debris. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Field work completed.</i>	East Farm. 1,100 ft. west of the ARS shooting range, in woods west of a remote tree farm and mulch storage area.

Notes:

1. "BARC" – identified during the initial 1991 PA/SI.
"EPIC" -- identified during the 1993 EPA/EPIC aerial photographic analysis.
"ENTECH M#" -- miscellaneous features identified during the 1997 ENTECH aerial photographic analysis.
"ENTECH R#" -- identified during the 1997 ENTECH field reconnaissance and desktop data collection study.
"FDA" – identified during the 1993 EPA/EPIC aerial photographic analysis.

Table 2. AOCs Under Review and/or Requiring Further Investigation

AOC No./ Name¹	Summary	Location
BARC 15 Test Droplet Area	Area adjacent to old airport used to test aircraft-borne pesticide application equipment. <i>Initial field work completed, Summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed Spring 2003, and Summer 2007. Monitoring wells installed and sampled in 2010 that failed to confirm groundwater contamination. An additional sampling round has been requested by EPA before the site can be considered for no further action.</i>	East Farm. Northern end of the old north/south-oriented runway at the old BARC airfield.
EPIC 7 Open Storage	Storage/service area utilized from 1950s until present. Limited ground staining observed. <i>Field sampling conducted in January 2010 to verify the presence of lead in surface soils. Further delineation sampling completed in early 2011.</i>	North Farm. 100 ft. southwest of North Drive and 5th Street intersection.
EPIC 8 Open Storage	Storage area utilized from 1950s until present. Materials stored at various times include coal and construction debris. <i>Field sampling conducted in January 2010 to verify the presence of lead in surface soils. Further delineation sampling completed in early 2011.</i>	North Farm. 200 ft. west of B-014, at the southern terminus of 5th Street.
EPIC 16 Disposal/Fill Area	Surface disposal of general refuse in 1950s. Limited debris present in 1996. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Initial field work completed, Spring 1999. Further data evaluation needed based on new data from the nearby BARC 6 site. Site decision deferred until responsibility for groundwater contamination becomes better understood.</i>	Linkage Farm. Northeast corner of the intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and the CSX Railroad.

Table 2 (continued). AOCs Under Review and/or Requiring Further Investigation

AOC No./ Name ¹	Summary	Location
EPIC 47 (Undetermined)	<p>Alleged former U.S. Park Police test track. <i>Initial SSP investigation completed summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed spring 2003 and summer 2007. Monitoring wells installed and sampled in 2010 that failed to confirm groundwater contamination. An additional sampling round has been requested by EPA before the site can be considered for NFA.</i></p>	<p>East Farm. Northern end of the old north/south-oriented runway at the old BARC airfield.</p>
ENTECH 7 Open Storage Yard (Granary)	<p>Former off-loading area for bulk commodities in the 1940s. Miscellaneous debris and materials stored at this site. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Initial field work completed, Spring 1999. Follow-on sampling completed Spring 2004. Soil and groundwater investigation completed in January 2008, including the removal of surface debris and oil contamination. Monitoring wells installed and sampled in May 2008 and in 2011. Observed groundwater contamination is a likely from an offsite source. Further discussions with MDE are needed to determine next steps.</i></p>	<p>Linkage Farm. 150 ft. south of B-085A and just east of the CSX Railroad right-of-way.</p>
Composting Stormwater Retention Pond (CSWRP)	<p>Site adjacent to the Chemical Disposal Pits site. This AOC was administratively separated from that site in 2009 due to potential effects on surface waters from the historical operation of a large composting facility in the 1970s that was unrelated to Chemical Disposal Pits site. <i>SSP report prepared to evaluate potential risks to human health and is under review by EPA.</i></p>	<p>Central Farm. North of B-442 Scrap Area (BARC 31), 800 ft. northwest of the intersection of Powder Mill Road and the B/W Parkway.</p>

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Table 3. AOCs Undergoing a Remedial Investigation

AOC No./ Name ¹	Summary	Location
<p>BARC 6 Biodegradable Site</p>	<p>Area used for the disposal of biodegradable material, construction rubble, and general refuse from 1940 to 1975. Groundwater contamination identified in 1993, and a large scale removal completed in 1994. Property subsequently transferred to the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) to construct a rail maintenance yard. RI and FS completed; however, possible remedies still under consideration due to the identification of an offsite property as the primary contamination source. <i>Further groundwater investigations anticipated to clarify sources, movement, and fate. Following this study, the RI will be updated, and an FS will be prepared.</i></p>	<p>Linkage Farm. 1,400 ft. southeast of the intersection of the WMATA access road and Sunnyside Avenue.</p>
<p>BARC 12 Chemical Disposal Pits</p>	<p>Excavation pits possibly used for disposal and/or burning of chemicals in the 1960s; subsequently backfilled. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. A Remedial Investigation has been completed to determine the extent of groundwater contamination; however, additional investigations are underway to try to identify any contaminant source areas. Following this study, the RI will be updated, and an FS will be prepared.</i></p>	<p>Central Farm. North of B-442 Scrap Area (BARC 31), 1,100 ft. northwest of the intersection of Powder Mill Road and the B/W Parkway.</p>

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Table 4. Completed or Planned Cleanups

AOC No./ Name ¹	Summary	Location
<p>BARC 1 Experimental Wood Treatment Area</p>	<p>Area used for application of wood treatment chemicals in the 1940s and 1950s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Soil removal and disposal completed in early 2007.</i></p>	<p>South Farm. 200 ft. southeast of B-060.</p>
<p>BARC 4 B-033 Washdown Area</p>	<p>Rinse and wash area for West BARC farm equipment where mixing and loading of pesticides also occurred prior to 1993. <i>Initial field work completed, Winter 1999. Supplemental sampling completed Winter 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2009. Interim removal action initiated in 2011. Further sampling planned to evaluate potential ecological impacts and to develop remedial options.</i></p>	<p>North Farm. South of B-033, 50 feet northwest of the intersection of Shop and West Drives.</p>

Table 4 (continued). Completed or Planned Cleanups

AOC No./ Name ¹	Summary	Location
<p>BARC 14 Airport Mixing Pad</p>	<p>Concrete pad used for mixing and loading pesticides. <i>Initial SSP investigation completed summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed spring 2003, and spring 2007. Engineering Evaluation/Cost Assessment (EE/CA) and a soil removal action completed in 2010 to remove surface soil contaminated with pesticide residues.</i></p>	<p>East Farm. In the aircraft hangar area of the BARC airfield, approximately 50 ft. south of B-606.</p>
<p>BARC 18 Low-Level Radiation Burial Site</p>	<p>Area licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the disposal of low-level radiation materials prior to 1987. <i>Investigation of disposal pits (test pits) completed summer 2006. Plans for a Removal Action will proceed once the Decommissioning Plan is approved by NRC (planned for 2012) that will also address groundwater contamination.</i></p>	<p>North Farm. South of B-041, approximately 1,200 ft. south of the intersection of Service Road and West Drive.</p>
<p>BARC 19 Trenches Behind B-029</p>	<p>Erosional gully into which metallic waste and refuse were placed in the 1940s. <i>Initial field work completed, Winter 1999. Supplemental sampling completed Winter 2002, 2004, 2008, and 2009 to delineate the extent of pesticide residues. Interim removal action initiated in 2011. Further sampling planned to evaluate potential ecological impacts and to develop remedial options.</i></p>	<p>North Farm. 250 ft. northeast of intersection of Peach Orchard Dr. and Service Rd.</p>
<p>BARC 22 College Park Landfill</p>	<p>Landfill operated by City of College Park from 1950s until 1970s. Mainly residential wastes disposed. When closed, landfill cover was applied in an unorganized fashion. <i>Initial SSP fieldwork completed, Winter 1997. Surface debris removal completed, Spring 1998. RI completed February 2008. Pilot Study field monitoring completed December 2008 to evaluate the potential use of a vegetative cap. Pilot Study report was finalized in 2009 detailing the results from a 3 year field study for vegetative landfill biocovers. NFA for ecological risks per a TM prepared for the site (3/09). FS completed September 2009. Further activities planned to evaluate and select a response option.</i></p>	<p>Central Farm. 800 ft. east of Edmonston Road, near the intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and Edmonston Road.</p>
<p>BARC 27 Beaver Dam Road Landfill</p>	<p>Capped rubble landfill operational from 1940s until 1980s. Contaminated groundwater plume extends from the base of the landfill to the southeast. <i>Field work completed, January, 1999. RI completed March 2008. FS completed July 2008, and public meeting held in July 2009. Mulch biowall selected as the site remedy. Record of Decision (ROD) received in 2011, followed by design and construction of the remedy in 2012/2013.</i></p>	<p>Central Farm. 1,700 ft. east of the intersection of Research and Beaverdam Roads, on the north bank of the Beaverdam Creek stream valley.</p>

Table 4 (continued). Completed or Planned Cleanups

AOC No./ Name¹	Summary	Location
BARC 31 B-442 Scrap Area	Storage area for scrap metal and surplus equipment utilized since the 1960s. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Soil removal and disposal completed in early 2007.</i>	Central Farm. 500 ft. north of Powder Mill Road and south of the Chemical Disposal Pits (BARC 12).
BARC 32 PCB Storage Area	Area used to store and service transformers containing PCBs prior to the early 1990s. <i>Soil cleanup completed in 2004. Soil sampling and monitoring well installation completed July 2007. Subsequent TCE groundwater investigation completed July 2008. Additional studies being completed in 2012 to evaluate groundwater migration and to develop remedial options.</i>	Central Farm. 250 ft. northwest of the intersection of Powder Mill Road and the B/W Parkway.
BARC 36 Airport Scrap Pile	Formerly, a debris-filled ravine. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Initial SSP investigation completed summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed spring 2003 and summer 2007. EE/CA and a soil removal action completed in 2010 to remove surface soil contaminated with pesticide residues.</i>	East Farm. 350 ft. southwest of B-604 and 175 ft. north of the former east/west-oriented runway.
BARC 37 Waste Oil Pit	Natural ravine used for disposal of waste oil in the 1960s and 1970s. <i>Initial SSP investigation completed summer 1998. Follow-on sampling completed spring 2003 and summer 2007. EE/CA and a soil removal action completed in 2010 to remove surface soil contaminated with pesticide residues.</i>	East Farm. 50 ft. west of B-606, down slope from the hangar apron.
ENTECH R1 Structural Ruin	Building foundation with surficial dumping in and around its remains. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Soil removal and disposal completed in early 2007.</i>	Central Farm. 100 ft. northeast of BARC 30, north of Powder Mill Road.
FDA 2 Wooded Area	Disposal area containing organic wastes and miscellaneous refuse. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1997. Soil removal and disposal completed in early 2007.</i>	Central Farm. In a wooded ravine near the former FDA complex, 600 ft. southeast of B-344.
ENTECH R23 Rose Garden Site	Dilapidated building remains with miscellaneous debris and containers in and around the remains. <i>Surface debris removal completed, Fall 1998. Numerous subsequent soil investigations between 2000 and 2007. Soil removal and disposal completed in 2008 to remedy DDT residues in soil.</i>	Central Farm: 210 ft. northwest of B-483 in a wooded area.
Building 421 Concrete Surface Storage Area	Concrete pads used to store old transformers. Sampling completed in 2006 identified presence of DDT residues adjacent to the pads. <i>EE/CA and a soil removal action completed in 2010 to remove surface soil contaminated with pesticide residues.</i>	Central Farm. Approximately 500 feet south of Powder Mill Road on Biocontrol Road..

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