



# Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: Remedial Investigation, BARC 27: Beaver Dam Road Landfill



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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), is in the process of completing a comprehensive investigation at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). As part of this activity, ARS is investigating the nature and extent of potential soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination associated with an area on Beaver Dam Road that was used as a landfill.

## Background

Beaver Dam Road Landfill (BDRLF) is located approximately 1,700 feet east of the intersection of Beaver Dam Road and Research Road, on the north bank of the Beaver Dam Creek stream valley. The landfill is covered with vegetation, somewhat dome-shaped, with steeply sloped sides surrounded by woods to the east and south. BDRLF is upstream of the floodplain of Beaver Dam Creek.

BDRLF was reportedly used as a disposal site for non-hazardous substances such as construction rubble, furniture, and other debris. This site was used for disposal from the early 1940s through the 1980s, after which time the landfill was closed and capped.

Several preliminary environmental studies of BDRLF have been completed. The most recent study collected samples from the 4 existing monitoring wells, as well as samples from soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment near and downstream of BDRLF. Analysis of these samples indicate the presence of contaminants emanating from the landfill, particularly volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals.

## Ongoing Activities

Prior to initiating field work, a health and safety plan, quality assurance project plan, and a sampling and analysis work plan were developed for BDRLF. These plans are designed to carefully guide the investigation process, and

were approved by EPA prior to beginning the investigation.

Field activities conducted to date include soil conductivity probing and field screening of soil gas samples; surface water and sediment sampling; and installation of soil borings to collect surface and subsurface soil samples, as well as groundwater, for analysis. A wetlands delineation of the floodplain south and east of the landfill has also been performed to determine the wetland boundaries.

Results of the soil borings were used to site five additional monitoring wells at the landfill, which have been installed and developed. All nine wells, the four existing and five new, at the landfill were recently sampled. Results of all environmental analyses are being used to determine the nature and extent of contamination at BDRLF.

Field and laboratory data, as well as information relating to site history, is currently being evaluated in regard to potential risks to humans and the ecology should the site be developed in the future, or if groundwater were used in the future as drinking water. Based on the results of the human health and ecological risk assessments, a feasibility study will be prepared to determine the most appropriate remedy for the site.

## For More Information...

Contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, at 301/504-1637, email [kaplan@ars.usda.gov](mailto:kaplan@ars.usda.gov), or visit the ARS information repository located in Room 014, Building 003, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. The information repository is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. The information repository is also available at the Prince George's County Memorial Library at 4319 Sellman Road. The library's hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday, 10 am to 9 pm; Thursday and Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.