



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## **FACTS ABOUT: Bush Valley Landfill (National Priorities List Site)**

### **Site Location:**

Bush Valley Landfill (BVL) is an unlined landfill that occupies 16 acres of a 29-acre parcel near Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland. The site is located on Bush Road, northeast of Abingdon, Maryland. A 120-acre tidal marsh, known as the Bush Declaration Natural Resources Management Area, is north and east of the landfill.

### **Site History:**

The BVL site was owned and operated by the Harris and Braxton families from 1974 to 1982. In 1975, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene permitted the landfill to accept domestic residential waste, and the landfill was used by the Harford County Department of Public Works. Between 1975 and 1982, numerous inspections by the State and County indicated that the operators did not adhere to permit requirements. Both industrial and hazardous wastes were allowed into the landfill. The landfill was covered by soil in 1983 when the site was abandoned. In March 1989, the site was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL). After negotiations with EPA in June 1990, Harford County agreed to conduct a series of studies at the BVL site.

### **Environmental Investigations and Actions:**

These studies took place from 1991 to 1995, when the final Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility report for BVL was approved. EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD), which was signed in 1995, which specified the cleanup for the site. The remedy specified in the ROD consists of a single barrier landfill cap with a stormwater conveyance system and a landfill gas management program, deed and access restrictions, and groundwater, surface water, sediment and landfill gas monitoring.

The initial remedy for this site specified a passive landfill gas management system with a provision to upgrade to an active landfill gas management system. Construction of the landfill cap was completed in August 2001 and monitoring was begun. As a result of a performance evaluation completed in December 2002, it was determined that the passive landfill gas management system was inadequate to prevent the off-site migration of subsurface landfill gases. In 2004, Harford County began construction on a series of gas extraction wells coupled with an active landfill gas extraction and flare system to capture



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and incinerate landfill gases. This system effectively acts as a vapor barrier to landfill gas migration. Construction of the gas extraction system was completed in March 2005. An Interim Remedial Action report was issued in 2001, and the final Remedial Action Report was issued in June 2015.

**Current Status:**

Harford County is performing operations and maintenance for the landfill, which includes monitoring of groundwater, surface water and landfill gas.

**Site Repository:**

Harford County Library  
Bel Air Branch  
100 E. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Bel Air MD 21014  
410-638-3151



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