

FIELD REPORT

Number: DE- 200

Site name: Townsend Processing Plant

Date of inspection: December 1, 2000

DNREC Project Manager: Wilmer Reyes

Summary

This site is located on Route 24, in Millsboro, Sussex County (Fig. 1). The current owner of the property is Mountaire Farms Company. Townsend Inc. (old owner) began operations at its Millsboro poultry and grain processing plant in 1935. This operation continues under the name Townsend Inc., administered by Mountaire Farms Company. In 1988, DNREC conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) and no further action was recommended. The waste found at the site consists of large areas of backfilled rubble, mostly concrete blocks and slabs, located along the northern border of the processing plant and the nearby Swan Creek.

DNREC-SIRB inspected the site on December 1, 2000 in order to know if it is active or if any company action is taking place. Mr. Jeff Smith and Mr. Gordon Serman, both from Mountaire Farms, were present during the site inspection. Also, Mr. George White, from Townsend Inc., was contacted for further information.

Inspection findings

During the inspection it was noted that the site was cleaned and most of the waste described in the PA report has been removed by the company. According to the company, the clean-up work took several years and the concrete blocks and slabs were used to build the parking area located to the north of the company's office building. No more dumping activities occurred at the site but a few concrete blocks and a small quantity of metal remain at the site.

It is important to mention that the inspection focused on the waste declared in the PA field report, therefore the hazardous substances used by the company in their daily industrial operations, such as hexane, propane, liquid nitrogen, diesel, fuel oil, ammonia, sodium hydroxide, and sulfuric acid, as well as the treated water discharged into Swan Creek from their own wastewater treatment facilities, has not been considered in the inspection.

General surroundings of the area shows woodland and Swan Creek to the northeast, company buildings to the south and an open area covered with grass to the west.

Evaluation under HSCA regulation

No data is available.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The dump site is inactive and no new dumping of solid waste has occurred. The company took clean-up action and only a few concrete blocks and a small pile of scrap metal remain at the site. Therefore, DNREC-SIRB will issue a No Further Action letter to the Townsend Processing Plant company closing out the Townsend dump site under the HSCA Program.

Additionally, because of the various chemicals that the plant uses in its daily operation and the potential risk for contamination, DNREC-SIRB recommends an evaluation by the Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Branch of how the plant handles, stores and disposes of these chemicals and the wastes of the treatment plant before deciding if further action is required.

Fig. 1. Townsend Processing Plant dump map

