GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of the Environment

Natural Resources Administration
Water Quality Division

Illicit Discharge Investigation Report

Case Number: 100330
Complaint: Routine monthly facility inspection
Location: 1711 1st St., SW (Super Salvage, Inc.)
Date Incident Reported: March 30, 2010
Date of Investigation: March 30, 2010
Name of Inspector(s): Ibrahim Famuditimi and Jacob Zangrilli

Inspectors arrived at location at 11:45AM to perform a routine monthly inspection of the facility at 1711 1st St., SW. The facility at the address is owned by Super Salvage, Inc and they collect and recycle most forms of scrap metals. The address is located within the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and drains to the Anacostia River. Weather conditions on this day were partly sunny. Upon request by inspectors, we spoke to Robert Bullock the company's Chief Financial Officer, as to our reasons for inspecting the facility. Inspectors notified Mr. Bullock that they will be checking their records and performing a visual site inspection.

Inspectors noticed various types of fluids leaking from storage boxes left on the grounds of the property, automotive parts, and also from buildings on the property. Upon asking why fluids were coming out of the buildings, inspectors were told that they had a malfunction with the hydraulic equipment the day prior, and they are working on fixing that problem. During the time of inspection, the hydraulic equipment was turned off. Inspectors also noticed what seemed to be a concrete hole in the ground. Mr. Bullock told inspectors it was used for collecting runoff fluids on the property. Mr. Bullock stated that this "runoff collection unit" is later pumped into the pond of the back of the building. An employee on site disagreed with Mr. Bullock and said that contractors came to pump liquids from the concrete hole, and that it was a closed catchment system. When asked to see documentation that such fluids are been picked up, Super Salvage was unable to locate the paper work.

Inspectors also noted a large pond-like structure behind one of the equipment buildings which was filled with a mix of water and various unknown fluids. When asked why such a pond existed, Mr. Bullock stated that for several years they have always pumped such liquids into the hole which they allow to drain into the ground or evaporate. A majority of this property is not paved, and it is also apparent that the operations at this facility have resulted in severe contamination to soil in and around the property.

Best management practices and spill prevention plans by Super Salvage Inc were very poor or non-existant as there is no visible evidence of any forms of absorbent materials being used to clean spills. The maintenance of disposal records and manifests was found to be poor.

Water Quality Division inspectors are recommending that we have a multi-media inspection that also includes other District and Federal agencies. Directives should be issued to prevent future contaminated runoff from impacting ground or surface water in the District.

Waste material storage at 1711 1st St., SW

Storage boxes leaking of fluids at 1711 1st St., SW

Equipment building with fluids coming out it at 1711 1st St., SW

Contaminated soil area at 1711 1st St., SW

Equipment Building showing fluid on the floor at 1711 1st St., SW

Hole in the ground with different pumped liquids at 1711 1st St., SW

View of property