



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

A newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Spring Valley Project area residents

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<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>

The Corps' mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.

Controlled Detonation Chamber leaves Spring Valley



The Controlled Detonation Chamber is loaded onto a trailer at the federal property in Spring Valley.

On Feb. 17, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) safely and effectively destroyed two conventional (non-chemical) munition items at the Spring Valley federal property using the Controlled Detonation Chamber. Following this munitions destruction operation, the Controlled Detonation Chamber departed Spring Valley in March to the West Coast for another operation.

The two conventional 75 mm munition items recovered during the 2011 anomaly investigations in the Dalecarlia Woods geophysical investigation area were destroyed in two separate contained detonations. The detonation operation lasted less than three hours, and no noise complaints were received from the nearby community. These were the only munition items remaining in storage at the federal property on Little Falls Road.

Prior to the detonations, USACE notified community members via an article in the Northwest Current newspaper and the Spring Valley project Web site and e-mail listservs. Additionally, the Community Outreach Team went door-to-door in the nearby area informing

residents of the upcoming operation and the potential to hear a slight popping noise, like a car backfiring, when the items were detonated.

The Controlled Detonation Chamber was used previously to destroy conventional munition items recovered during Spring Valley project investigations in 2003 and again in January 2011, when more than 100 conventional munitions were safely destroyed. The February 2012 operation was conducted in accordance with the February 2010 signed Action Memorandum for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for Munitions Disposal, and with the previously approved safety and site setup plans from the 2011 operation.



This 75 mm artillery round was found in Dalecarlia Woods and destroyed in the Controlled Detonation Chamber in February 2012. Photo from the Spring Valley project.

Update on 4825 Glenbrook Road cleanup



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin the environmental cleanup of 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. this summer.

The Corps of Engineers will remove the house, cleanup, and restore the property to residential standards, providing for unrestricted future use of the property. This approach was presented as Alternative 5 in the Proposed Plan, and is the most effective and protective of human health and the environment. The plan provides the best long-term solution by minimizing future risk at 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. and providing maximum flexibility in future land use.

The Decision Document, which formally selected the cleanup alternative, was authorized by the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management in early April. The Corps is awaiting final approval and signature from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health. Upon final signature, the Decision Document, as well as the supporting fact sheet will be posted to the Spring Valley project Web site.

The Demolition and Disposal Plan for 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. was finalized in February to support the cleanup alternative selected in the Decision Document. The Demolition and Disposal Plan outlines the approach for removal and disposal of the house at the property and will be posted on the Web site with the final

Decision Document. Hard copies of all of these documents will be available at the Spring Valley Information Repository at the Tenley Friendship Branch Library.

Removal of the house is scheduled to begin this summer. The house will be removed systematically from top to bottom using an excavator. Any part of the house that comes into contact with subsurface material will remain in place, including the basement slab and exterior basement walls, which will be removed during high probability investigations as part of the remedial action. All debris will be separated into four separate waste streams (construction debris, masonry materials, metals, and universal waste) and disposed of at appropriate designated locations in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. Demolition and disposal is expected to take approximately one month.

The Corps also is finalizing the Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plan, which outlines how the property will be cleaned up after the house comes down. Details of the Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plan will be presented at the May 8 Restoration Advisory Board meeting and an informational community meeting in the summer.

Site cleanup will begin after the house is removed and is anticipated to last through the end of 2013.

All planned anomaly investigations completed



Last month, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed the last planned intrusive metallic anomaly investigation effort in the Spring Valley project area. Metallic anomalies and anomalous areas were investigated at 90 residential properties, 12 acres at the American University (AU), and approximately 60 acres of the Dalecarlia Woods in the District of Columbia/federal property. The properties were identified for munitions investigations based on historical documentation and aerial photographs from the 1918 timeframe.

The investigations were conducted in two phases as part of the Spring Valley Military Munitions Response Program. Properties were first surveyed using geophysical instruments (sophisticated metal detectors) to identify buried metallic anomalies. Following analysis of the geophysical survey results by USACE and its regulatory partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA) and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), intrusive investigations of metallic anomalies with characteristics of possible buried World War I munition items were conducted.

Since December 2011, field teams completed anomaly investigations at the remaining 2.5 acres on the AU campus, the remaining 38 acres in the Dalecarlia Woods geophysical investigation area, and the last scheduled residential property located on the 3900 block of 52nd Street.

American University: In March 2012, field teams completed anomaly investigation efforts on the AU campus near Kreeger Hall. A total of 18 single-item anomalies and four anomalous areas were investigated as part of this effort.

The investigation required removal of small portions of the Kreeger parking lot and roadway to dig trenches in the four anomalous areas identified during the geophysical survey of the area. No World War I-related munitions or debris items were recovered, only cultural and construction debris, such as a glass soda bottle and rebar with concrete.

Dalecarlia Woods: During the last mobilization effort in the Dalecarlia Woods geophysical investigation area from October-December 2011, field teams investigated more than 1,600 buried single-item metallic anomalies and six trenches. One conventional munition item and 58 munitions debris items were recovered during this effort, of which 22 were cannonball fragments not from the World War I era.

The recovered conventional munition item was a fused 75mm munition containing thermite, which is an incendiary that is designed to start fires. This item was one of the two munition items safely destroyed during the most recent Controlled Detonation Chamber operation that was completed in February 2012.

3900 block of 52nd Street property: More than 200 single item anomalies were investigated at the last scheduled residential property on the 3900 block of 52nd Street. During this effort, three World War I-related munitions debris items were recovered and classified as 75mm fragments.

The munitions debris items did not pose a hazard to the workers or the nearby community, and were safely removed from the property.

The data collected during all of the completed anomaly investigations in the Spring Valley project area will be included as part of the Spring Valley project-wide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), which will be made available for public review and comment when it is completed.

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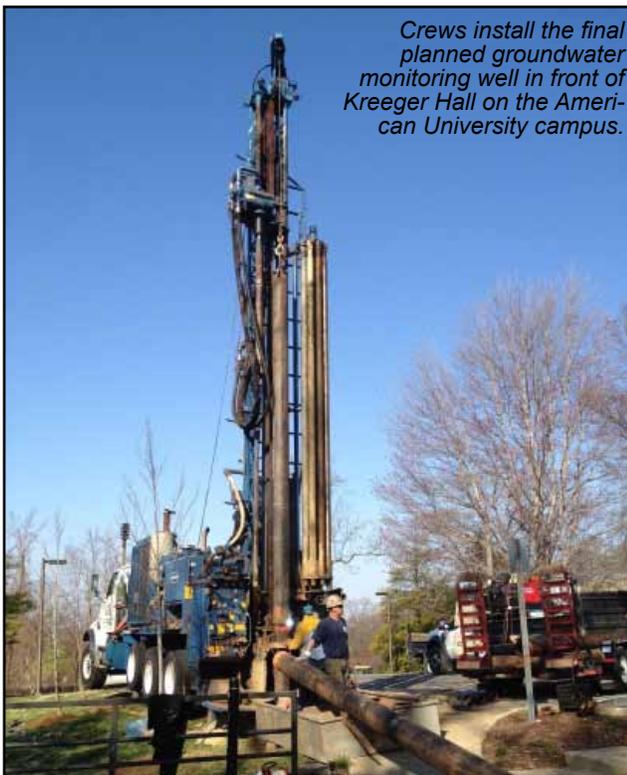
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Groundwater study update



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continued its efforts to characterize World War I-related groundwater contamination in and around the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

In February 2012, field teams successfully installed custom-made sampling liners in the two new deep wells: one on the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road and one on the 4900 block of Rockwood Parkway.

Each custom-made sampling liner was designed with sampling ports at specific well depth intervals corresponding to fracture zones in the bedrock where groundwater flow could be occurring.

Sampling intervals for the custom-made well liners were selected by USACE and the interagency regulatory partners, District Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III.

The first deep well was drilled and characterized in spring 2010 on the 4900 block of Glenbrook Road. These two new deep wells were drilled and characterized in October 2011.

The purpose of the deep groundwater monitoring wells is to further characterize deep groundwater aquifer chemistry and flow patterns in the vicinity of shallow wells on the American University (AU) campus and Glenbrook Road where elevated levels of perchlorate have previously been identified.

In March 2012, field teams successfully drilled and characterized a groundwater monitoring well on the AU campus in front of Kreeger Hall.

This well was intended to be the fourth and final planned deep well to be installed as part of the deep groundwater study. Due to conditions encountered during drilling, the well could only be drilled to approximately 95 feet (as opposed to the deep groundwater monitoring wells that were drilled to approximately 200 feet).

The well was fitted with a well screen and will be sampled at one location rather than multiple ports. In this same area of the AU campus, there are six additional groundwater monitoring wells, three piezometers, and two surface water locations that are sampled periodically as part of the groundwater study.

In spring 2012, the second and third deep wells and the newly drilled well on the AU campus will be sampled.

USACE will continue to discuss ongoing groundwater study efforts and progress at monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings.