



US Army Corps
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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.

Demolition at 4825 Glenbrook Road NW planned for this fall



The house at 4825 Glenbrook Road

This fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin demolition of the house at 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W.

Around this time last year, with finalization of the Remedial Investigation report and Feasibility Study, the Corps provided the Proposed Plan for community review and hosted a public meeting detailing the Army's preferred plan for final cleanup at 4825 Glenbrook Road. Throughout the fall and winter, the Corps of Engineers reviewed comments submitted during the Proposed Plan comment period, and drafted the Decision Document.

The Decision Document, which formally selected the cleanup alternative to address any contamination and risk potentially remaining at the property, was signed and authorized in July following thorough reviews by the project regulatory partners — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III and the District Department of the Environment, several offices within the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Army, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health, and the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Due to the complexity of the cleanup, the Corps began drafting the necessary plans to implement the cleanup alternative selected in the Decision Document prior to its finalization. The first step in implementing the cleanup at 4825 Glenbrook Road

is demolition and removal of the house, detailed in the Demolition Plan. The Demolition Plan was completed and released in July. At the July community meeting, the Restoration Advisory Board members and community members strongly encouraged the Corps to move forward as quickly as possible while adhering to the conservative safety precautions.

Throughout the summer the Corps' project team completed the remaining details to clear the path for the start of demolition and subsequent cleanup work. This included working closely with American University, the property owner, to finalize details concerning the implementation of the demolition and cleanup plan. In August, the Corps began efforts to secure the necessary permits and ready the site for demolition of the house.

Demolition

The demolition, which will take about two to three weeks, is a standard construction process that does not involve intrusive excavations. 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 the high probability cleanup.

The Corps also plans to control the dust generated during the demolition process by spraying water on the demolition area during the operation. Noise

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Upcoming Community Meeting on 4825 Glenbrook Road

Please join us for a combined
Restoration Advisory Board/Community Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.,

at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 3401 Nebraska Ave., Washington D.C. 20016. An "open house" will be available for 30 minutes before and after the meeting for one-on-one questions and answers.

Glenbrook Road, continued from page 1

levels during the demolition will be similar to the noise generated by common house renovation activities in the community. The working hours for demolition will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

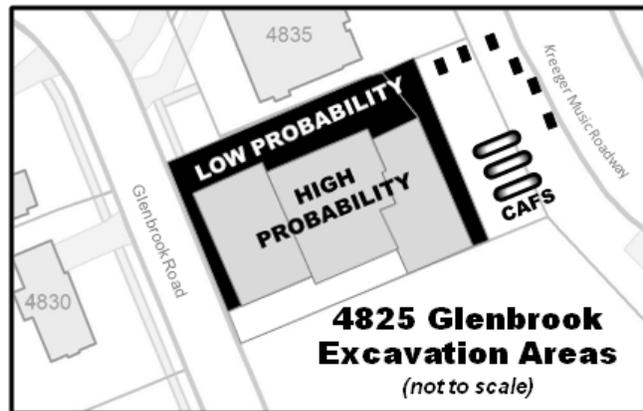
Initial Low Probability Excavation

Once the crew finishes the demolition, the team is scheduled to relocate site utilities and perform some limited low probability excavation work in the backyard of the property. This effort is being completed prior to the start of the high probability cleanup effort as the area will be used to stage equipment later during the cleanup. During the low probability excavation, crews will perform air monitoring of the work zone and the perimeter of the property. This is low probability work because historical and investigative field data indicate there is little chance of finding American University Experiment Station related items in the backyard of the property.

Site Preparation for High Probability Excavation: Engineering Controls and Safety Protocols

Following completion of the initial low probability excavation, the Corps will implement all appropriate engineering controls and safety protocols for high probability excavation. Historical and field data indicate these areas have a greater likelihood of containing World War I-related munitions debris and/or glassware items.

In addition to the perimeter and work zone air monitoring used during the low probability excavation, the Corps will use a large (60 feet by 82.5 feet) Engineering Control Structure with a Chemical Air Filtration System (CAFS) during the high probability work. The Engineering Control Structure will fully enclose the excavation. The Chemical Air Filtration System keeps the Engineering Control Structure under negative pressure by continuously pulling, filtering and cleaning all the air leaving the control structure. Combined, the Engineering Control Structure and the Chemical Air Filtration System are designed to control any potential chemical release that may occur as the Corps performs the work. In the unlikely event of a chemical detection, the source will be identified and contained by the Engineering Control Structure and the Chemical Air Filtration System. In accordance with procedure, work will be stopped immediately in order to mitigate the cause of the detection. If warranted, the Corps will implement another precautionary measure for both the workers and neighbors within 161 feet: a Shelter-in-Place alert and notification system.



Other measures also will be used in consideration of impacts to workers and the neighbors, including controlling the noise at the project site. Sound measurements indicated that noise produced by the Chemical Air Filtration System could be significant. Therefore, the Corps plans to use acoustical enclosures and outlet silencers designed to control the noise. All engineering control devices will only run while work is being performed at the site.

Tentative Schedule and Upcoming Events

The Corps anticipates that the high probability work will begin in January 2013 and take approximately nine months to complete.

Following completion of the high probability work, expected by October 2013, the Corps will finish up with the remaining low probability excavation areas. Site restoration is then expected to be finished in December 2013. The property is planned to be released back to American University for unrestricted use by late December 2013.

More details on the cleanup work, including the engineering controls and safety plans, are outlined in the project's Remedial Action Work Plan and the Public Protection Plan, which will be presented at the October 9, 2012 community meeting.

The Corps of Engineers remains committed to implementing a measured and comprehensive path forward at 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. — the objective being a thorough and complete cleanup with the safety of the surrounding neighborhood, American University community, and site workers as the number one priority.

Progress continues on Groundwater Study Updates

The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) project team continued several groundwater study efforts during spring and summer 2012. Efforts included groundwater sampling, well installation and an analysis of groundwater perchlorate isotopes. Groundwater in Spring Valley is not used as a drinking water source, but for comparison purposes, groundwater contaminant concentrations are compared to drinking water standards and advisories established by EPA.

Groundwater Sampling – Deep Wells

The Corps of Engineers completed sampling of the two new deep monitoring wells, one on the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road and another on the 4900 block of Rockwood Parkway in March 2012. The sampling at the well on Rockwood Parkway showed no arsenic and perchlorate detections.

At the deep well on the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road, concentrations were found to be above the drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for arsenic, and the interim drinking water health advisory level of 15 ppb for perchlorate. Arsenic had not previously been detected above the MCL except at a nearby shallow monitoring well, also on the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road. Follow-on sampling conducted in July confirmed the arsenic and perchlorate results detected in March, which ranged from 8.4 to 18 ppb for arsenic and 6.3 to 26 ppb for perchlorate. The Corps of Engineers has scheduled a meeting with the interagency regulatory partners – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA Region III) and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) – in October, to begin plans for additional study efforts.

American University's Kreeger Hall Well Installation and Sampling

An initial sampling was completed in March 2012 at the first (MW-44) of two new wells installed on the American University campus near Kreeger Hall. This well was originally intended to be a deep well to assist in characterizing the vertical extent of the perchlorate plume; however, due to geological conditions encountered during drilling efforts,

the well was drilled to approximately 95 feet, instead of 200 feet. So in order to complete the objective of characterizing the vertical extent of perchlorate concentrations in the area near Kreeger Hall, the Corps of Engineers installed an additional well in July. This second well was drilled to approximately 175 feet. Sampling screens were placed at approximately 120 feet and 150 feet below ground surface, where groundwater flow was identified. Sampling was completed in early September, and results are expected in October.

These new wells are located near a shallow well (PZ-4), where in June 2007 the Spring Valley Project's highest perchlorate concentration of 146 ppb was detected. The results of the MW-44 sampling showed perchlorate concentrations at 33 ppb and 34 ppb, above the 15 ppb drinking water health advisory level.



Monitoring well installation near Kreeger Hall at American University

Isotopic Analysis of Perchlorate

The Corps of Engineers and the regulatory partners (EPA Region III and DDOE) agreed to commission a study to analyze the perchlorate isotopes at two locations in the Spring Valley Project area. These two areas have had consistent detections of perchlorate above the drinking water health advisory level, and may represent two separate groundwater plumes, with two separate sources. The perchlorate molecule includes one chlorine atom bonded to four oxygen atoms. This study will look at the ratio of the chlorine and oxygen isotopes from these two samples, which may provide useful information on the nature of the source of the perchlorate found in these areas. Groundwater samples were collected in March and April 2012 at two locations, one near Kreeger Hall on the AU campus and another at Sibley Hospital. Results are expected in October.

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Baltimore Commander & District Engineer Col. Trey Jordan
 Project Managers Dan Noble, Brenda Barber and Todd Beckwith
 Public Affairs Specialist Andrea Takash



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Corps conducts supplemental soil sampling in Spring Valley

In September, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a supplemental soil sampling effort at four areas within the Spring Valley project, involving 17 residential properties and portions of the American University campus potentially impacted by American University Experiment Station (AUES) related activities. The majority of the soil samples collected in each of the four areas are being analyzed for just one or two compounds, depending on the possible historical use of each area and information from previous sampling. This includes a consideration of the full list of compounds documented as having been used at the AUES.

The sampling was conducted as a result of the Corps of Engineers' extensive continuing evaluation of soil sampling data, dating to the beginning of the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Project in 1993. All of the previous investigative sampling data, totaling to more than 20,000 soil samples collected in the Spring Valley Project area, and the results from the recently completed soil sampling effort, will be included in the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Site-Wide Remedial

Investigation report. The Site-Wide Remedial Investigation report will be the basis for evaluating options for a final remedy for the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. The Site-Wide Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site project will follow the same process that was used to evaluate and select the final remedy for the 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. project.

The purpose of this most recent data evaluation is to determine whether additional information is needed to conduct comprehensive human health and ecological risk assessments as part of the Spring Valley Project's Site-Wide Remedial Investigation report. These efforts are conducted in consultation with the interagency regulatory partners — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III and the District Department of the Environment. As the review of previous sampling continues, additional sampling may be scheduled as a result of the continued evaluation.



Soil Sampling

Restoration Advisory Board seeks new members

The RAB is comprised of 14 Spring Valley community stakeholders as well as representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, the District Department of the Environment, as well as the nearby public school and American University. The RAB acts in an advisory capacity to assist the government agencies engaged in the investigation and cleanup of the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

Community participation is vital to the success of the cleanup process. The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision making process. This is done through making information about the environmental processes, risks and clean-up progress available to the public and by establishing a formal forum for public participation on the project. There are currently 12 active RAB members with openings for two community members on this board.

If you live and/or work within the project area and are interested in serving on the RAB, please complete an application and mail it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Residents can obtain an application by calling the Community Outreach Team at 410-962-0157 or by visiting <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Projects/SpringValley/RAB/index.html>. To learn more about volunteering, please call or email Malcolm Pritzker, RAB Membership Chair, at 202-537-9595 or malpritz@aol.com.

The RAB meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, NW. Meetings are open to the public. Also, please note that no RAB meetings are held in the months of August and December.