



## **SPRING VALLEY MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2010**

This monthly Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site project update is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, as part of our ongoing efforts to make information regarding the Spring Valley Partnership and neighborhood investigation more accessible to community members, elected officials, Restoration Advisory Board members, and other interested stakeholders. Specifically, the monthly update is produced to provide those who follow the project with a current snapshot of our partnering, planning and field activities, and is not designed to provide historical information or an overview of the project. Those individuals interested in broader project information, or who have follow-up questions regarding this update, are invited to contact our Community Outreach Team at (410) 962-0157.

### **Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)**

- The Pit 3 Area's 'high probability' test pit investigation effort continued this month in the front yard containment structure. The investigation team continued recovering glassware and stained soil during the excavation in and around Test Pits 120 and 134, but no munitions have been recovered. Over-excavation of the area around Test Pit 120 and 134 continued to ensure that all contaminated soil and possible contaminated glassware is removed from the area.
- In last month's Project Update we noted that some glassware and stained soil continued beyond the perimeter of the containment structure footprint, and that the approach for removing the glassware would be determined based on whether additional chemical agent contamination was found during the investigation. So far the laboratory analysis of the glassware items and stained soil recovered from under the front yard containment structure indicate there are low levels of chemical agent and agent breakdown products. Therefore the safety plans in development for the additional excavation include maintaining the 'high probability' mode by extending or moving the current containment structure. This will allow workers to safely remove the additional glassware and stained soil extending beyond the structure's footprint. Therefore, as March comes to a close, work under the current containment structure's footprint is expected to be finished, and immediately followed by preparations to extend the containment structure further into the front yard.
- In late February, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed the response to comments concerning the draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) of the disposal options for both the chemical and conventional munitions recovered and currently stored. This was followed by the completion of the Final EE/CA document and the signing of the decision document known as the Action Memorandum. The response to comments, the final EE/CA and the Action Memorandum are available at the Spring Valley Project website (see link at end of update) and at the Palisades Public Library. The selected removal action consists of using the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) and Contained Detonation Technologies to destroy the chemical and conventional munitions near the Spring Valley Project Field Offices on federal property. In accordance with the Action Memorandum, the US Army Corps of Engineers has begun planning for the upcoming munitions destruction operation. The EDS will be brought on-site to destroy the chemical munitions first, likely within the next 6 weeks. Conventional munitions are expected to be destroyed on-site at the federal property site later this Spring.
- Before the snow storm, the field teams were able to complete removal of a small area of mercury contaminated soil located behind the AU Public Safety Building. With most of the snow melted, restoration of the area will commence in March. The last planned effort, soil boring under the building, will be scheduled in coordination with American University.
- In February, field teams completed metallic anomaly investigations at one residential property and began investigation at a second residential property. No WWI-related items were recovered during the February effort. The field team was able to work until the major snow event in early February. Residential anomaly investigations are expected to resume in mid-March to allow soil to dry sufficiently after the snow melt.
- Up until the snow storm in early February, preparations for the geophysical survey of the Dalecarlia Parkway/DC right-of-way area continued. The team continued removal of underbrush and bamboo as well as the clearance of any metallic surface debris. During the surface clearance, two munition debris items, both from 75 mm munition items were recovered. Neither posed any hazard to workers or the community. Removal of underbrush and metallic surface debris is expected to resume in early March.

### **Removal of Soil with Elevated Levels of Arsenic from Residential Properties**

- This month the field team continued soil removal at one residential property on the 4300 block of Warren Street. Work was slowed in February due to inclement weather conditions. Soil removal is expected to be complete at this property by the end of March.

### **Groundwater Investigation Study**

- Various permits and plans needed for the upcoming installation of a deep well in the right-of-way area on the 4900 block of Glenbrook Road were completed in February. Barring adverse weather conditions, the well will be installed and sampled in March, over a 3 week period. The noisy well drilling effort is scheduled between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, and will be conducted during the weekdays. Other sampling and completion efforts will likely involve two Saturdays, though noise is expected to be minimal on the weekend.

### **Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**

- The next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The RAB meets on the second Tuesday of each month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, NW. The special presentation will be on the soil sampling and removal program. We hope to see you there!

Visit the Spring Valley Project website at: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>