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The Corps' pondent

a newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the residents of Spring Valley

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Soil removal at Glenbrook Road site nearly finished

Elevated levels of arsenic found in the soil near AU Child Development Center

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

The soil removal work at the Glenbrook Road site is nearly finished. Since Dec. 4, workers have been removing the top two feet of soil from across the site. All the soil removed is being trucked off-site to an appropriate landfill in Virginia.

During earlier testing at the Glenbrook site, elevated levels of arsenic were found in the surface soil in several areas on the site. Although arsenic itself is not a chemical warfare material, records indicate that arsenic was experimented with in a number of ways at the former American University Experiment Station between 1917-1919.

Following the completion of the soil removal work, new soil will be placed on the site and restoration activities will likely begin in March.

During removal activities January 16, workers recovered an unfused, empty 75MM shell near a stormwater line that runs through the Glenbrook Road site.

Small disposal area finished

In other work this month, we completed the investigation and cleanup of a small disposal area near the Glenbrook Road site.

During the four days of work, we removed 160, 55-gallon barrels of soil and glass and

metal debris. The soil and debris were tested and no chemical warfare material was found. Restoration of this area will begin soon.

Additionally, we have completed our soil sampling of properties near the Glenbrook Road site. In all, 42 properties and several locations on American University were sampled.

After reviewing these results, we feel it is necessary to conduct follow-up soil sampling at 11 of these locations. The majority of this sampling will occur in February.

Child center sampled

Because one of the locations includes the American University Child Development Center, it was decided to expedite sampling here.

Initial sampling around the center in December indicated the possibility of elevated arsenic levels in the surface soil. Given these results, follow-up testing was performed that involved detailed grid soil sampling of the area around the center.

The preliminary results of this sampling shows that 24 of the 67 samples taken contain arsenic levels higher than acceptable for a residential area.

These results were provided to American University and our partners. University officials

have decided to relocate the Child Development Center to another location on campus while this issue is resolved.

Final results of the grid sampling are expected in the next two weeks. After a review of the final results and in coordination with D.C. Health Department, EPA and American University, we will remove contaminated soil from affected areas near the center.

Health study planned

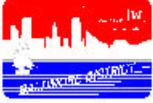
In addition to soil removal activities, the DC Health and EPA have requested that the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry conduct an exposure study of the children using the center. The agency has agreed to do the study on Feb. 1-2.

American University held a meeting with parents Jan. 23 to explain sampling results and what steps will be taken in the weeks ahead.

Anyone with questions or concerns about the sampling results or other Corps' activities can call me at 202-686-3359 or 410-962-6784.

Project information and a map of historic points of interest are available on our project website at:

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



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Community Meeting

The next Spring Valley community meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the federal property located directly behind Sibley Hospital. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. All residents are invited to attend.



Ongoing soil removal work at the Glenbrook Road site. Photos courtesy of Parsons Engineering Science.



The Corps'pondent

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