



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

# The Corps'pondent

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

January 2003

## Maj. Peloquin departs, residential soil removals continue

by Gary Schilling  
Lead Project Manager, Spring Valley

Earlier this month, Maj. Michael Peloquin, Spring Valley Operations Officer for the past two years, received orders to return to the "war fighting side" of the Army and has left both the Spring Valley project and his current position with the Corps' Baltimore District.

In his new assignment at Fort Stewart, Ga., he will serve as a combat engineer battalion operations officer.

He passes along his thanks and best wishes to everyone with whom he personally spoke during the past two years. He also thanks the residents who serve on the project's Restoration Advisory Board for their thankless effort on behalf of the community, as well as the partners from EPA Region III and D.C. Health, who continue to make progress toward project completion.

Gary Schilling, who has been the lead project manager for the past nine months, will manage the day-to-day activities of the Corps' investigation.

### Other project news

The soil removal on the second group of properties under a time critical removal action continues as planned.

To date, the Corps has completed six of the 12 properties in this group. When this work is completed in a few weeks, the Corps will have addressed all of the priority properties identified by the project partners.

The remaining Spring Valley properties with arsenic levels above the cleanup goal of 20 ppm will be addressed following the completion of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis report. This document will be available in a few weeks for public review and comment.

### American University

Elsewhere, the Corps continues addressing the last remaining grids of soil on American University. These grids contain both anomalies and arsenic-contaminated soil. The anomalies have been cleared with only one piece of scrap ordnance found. The arsenic soil will be removed over the next few weeks. Restoration of these areas is scheduled to begin in early spring.

Concurrent to this work, the Corps will be clearing anomalies and removing arsenic-contaminated soil in approximately 12 grids in the Small Disposal Area.

This area is a strip of land the borders American University and several properties on Rockwood

Parkway. Some of the arsenic-only grids were cleaned up last year.

### FY03 activities

During this fiscal year, the Corps will push forward with other activities in the project area.

This spring, an intrusive investigation will be conducted on six or seven grids of soil in what is historically known as the Spaulding/Captain Rankin Area.

This area is comprised of a portion of American University and several properties on Woodway Lane. The work will involve the clearing of several anomalies and arsenic soil removal.

The Corps also plans to begin geophysical investigations at between one and two dozen other properties.

The first few properties will include properties on Sedgwick Street and in the Spaulding/Captain Rankin area.

These investigations will center on key features or Points of Interest located on the former American University Experiment Station grounds, such as pits, trenches and ground scars.

The project partners are discussing other groups of properties that may need to be geophysically surveyed.



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

Official Business

PRE-SORTED  
 FIRST CLASS MAIL  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 MAIL ADVERTISING  
 SERVICES, INC  
 20850

## December RAB update

Maj. Michael Peloquin began the meeting by announcing that he would be leaving the Spring Valley project in early January. Gary Schilling will replace Peloquin as the RAB co-chair and manage the day-to-day activities of the project.

Next, Dorothy Zolandz reported that the science task group has reviewed the TAPP contractor's work and found no surprises. The task group will provide the RAB with a written report prior to the January meeting.

Amy Jackson reported that the comfort letter task group has drafted a list of objectives that the government's conclusion or comfort letter should meet. The next step for the task group is to submit their list to EPA for consideration, the agency drafting the letter. Letters will be sent to every homeowner participating in the sampling and cleanup efforts.

Davis Robinson of the RAB's indemnification task group reported that after reviewing the Army's indemnification letter, it's

the task group's conclusion that it would likely take an act of Congress to obtain a financially-backed, hold-harmless guarantee from future loss or damage due to the DoD contamination. Peloquin reminded the group that DoD is forever obliged to clean up contamination from past DOD activities.

Dr. Robert Johnson of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) presented the results of the second phase of the exposure investigation ATSDR has been conducting in Spring Valley.

Phase II consisted of testing urine arsenic levels in a total of 40 individuals – 34 adults and six children (age 21 months to 17 years). The effort targeted individuals living on or adjacent to project properties having the highest levels of arsenic in the soil. Three of the 40 subjects had slight elevations in their urine, but none had levels that would be expected to cause health problems. Johnson stressed that it is not clear whether

the detectable levels of arsenic in the three individuals are related to soil arsenic contamination, diet or another source.

ATSDR's written report on its work is due in February.

Next, the RAB's technical consultant, Dr. Peter deFur, gave a synopsis of his project-related efforts from the past three months.

Prior to a 40-minute closed-door meeting with Dr. deFur, the RAB conducted an election of a new community co-chair. Dorothy Zolandz, a Spring Valley resident and member of the RAB since May 2001, was elected the new community co-chair. She succeeds Sarah Stowell Shapley, who served three, six-month terms as co-chair.

Minutes of RAB meetings are on the project's web site, <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>.

RAB meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church. The public is invited to attend.

### The Corps'pondent

*The Corps'pondent* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-81 and published by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660, Spring Valley Information Line (1-800-434-0988). It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 2,200. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Project web page: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>

**Baltimore Commander & District Engineer** ..... Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.  
**Lead Project Manager** ..... Gary Schilling  
**Public Affairs Chief** ..... Lucy Lather  
**Public Affairs Specialist** ..... Doug Garman