



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

Vol. 2, No. 2

March 2000

## Final portion of second pit to be excavated March 29-31

by Maj. Brian Plaisted  
Spring Valley Operations Officer

Since our last newsletter, we've completed the excavation of a small area of native undisturbed soil at the first pit on the Glenbrook Road site. No chemical warfare agent was found, and the entire pit area has now been backfilled with new soil.

On March 29-31, we plan to undertake a similar effort on a small area at the second pit. Like the first pit, using mechanical equipment, we will excavate a small area of the pit that extends outside the borders of the vapor containment structure.

This work will involve a very limited evacuation of some residents in the immediate area and will require the temporary daytime closure of a small portion of Glenbrook Road, from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to Rockwood Parkway. This effort has been coordinated with the residents living along Glenbrook Road.

As we've done throughout our search of this site, all the excavated soil is tested and analyzed for compounds associated with chemical warfare agents before being removed from the site. When the work on the second pit is finished, the pit will be backfilled with new soil. This will essentially complete our search for buried chemical



**Mechanical equipment similar to that pictured here will be used to excavate the final portion of the second pit later this month.**

agents at the Glenbrook Road property.

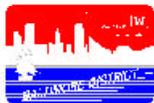
In other work at the site, we are continuing our efforts to characterize and assess the extent of the elevated arsenic levels discovered in soil samples taken late last year from the property.

During Feb. 22-24, we collected 266 additional surface soil samples from the property. These samples were taken at a 6-inch depth and are currently being reviewed and analyzed. Corps experts are finalizing a comprehensive risk assessment for the site to evaluate if any risk to human health is posed by the elevated arsenic levels. The

Corps will recommend appropriate cleanup actions as part of an engineering evaluation of possible alternatives.

The evaluation report is scheduled to be completed and available for public review and comment next month. Copies of the documents will be placed in the project's public repository at the Palisades Library and at the federal property location behind Sibley Hospital. We will post the date on our website and information line when the documents are available.

For more information on our work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988.



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

***Items recovered to date***

Since beginning the search for chemical warfare materi-  
 als March 29, 1999, the Corps of Engineers has recovered  
 the following items from the two disposal pits at the  
 Glenbrook Road property:

	<b><u>First pit</u></b>	<b><u>Second pit</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Total items	381	242	623
Ordnance items	230	58	288
Cylinders/pipes	39	2	41
Glass containers	32	143	175
Metal drums	13	9	22
Wooden training aids	22	0	22
Miscellaneous items	45	30	75
Chemical items	12	2	14
Drums of soil removed	911	481	1,392
Truck loads of soil	65	TBD	TBD

**Attention, Motorists**

**Glenbrook Road  
 (49th Street to Rockwood  
 Parkway)  
 will be closed  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 each day  
 Wednesday, March 29  
 to  
 Friday, March 31**

**\*Alternative route Rockwood Parkway**

***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 1,200. 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. Bruce Berwick  
**Deputy District Engineer, Spring Valley** ..... Maj. Brian Plaisted  
**Public Affairs Chief** ..... Lucy Lather  
**Public Affairs Specialist** ..... Doug Garman