



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

September 2002

Sedgwick Street investigation moves forward

by Maj. Michael Peloquin
Spring Valley Operations Officer

On Aug. 12, the Corps began the investigation of two properties in the 5000 block of Sedgwick Street of 27 low probability anomalies and two high probability anomalies.

To date, the low probability anomalies and one of the high probability anomalies have been excavated and cleared.

All but one of the anomalies was magnetic rock or pieces of construction debris. One of the low probability anomalies was identified as a fragment of an expended ordnance shell.

No explosive waste or chemical warfare agent was found at any of the anomalies.

The remaining high probability anomaly will be excavated during the first or second week of September. Prior to this excavation, a protective metal structure will be set up over the anomaly. Using this structure eliminates the need for any evacuations of nearby residents.

In conjunction with this investigation, the Corps has also removed any elevated arsenic contaminated soil that was

identified at these two properties during last year's area-wide sampling.

Sedgwick Street will remain open to through traffic 24 hours a day until the work on the higher probability anomaly begins.

At that time, Sedgwick Street, between Fordham Road and Tilden Street, will be open **only** to Sedgwick Street residents and their guests, and closed to through traffic between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The street will be reopened to all traffic at the end of each workday. District of Columbia police will man the road closures.

To keep the community informed about the progress of this work, the Corps will continue to provide daily updates on the Spring Valley web site at: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/spring-valley.htm>, and on the project's toll-free information line at 1-800-434-0988.

In other activities, the soil removal at the seven time critical removal properties continues to move forward.

To date, soil removal and the placement of clean fill is complete at five of the properties. Work on the final two properties

will begin soon. Project partners have agreed to the next tier of properties for arsenic removal and have met with those property owners. These eleven residential properties were selected because they all have areas of the property with arsenic above 150 parts per million.

With input from our partners and the property owners, we have now established a priority list for these properties. We expect to start the first of these properties in October, once we have finished the initial seven TCRA properties.

Removal of arsenic contaminated soil at American University is nearly complete.

The areas that remain also have anomalies that must be investigated first.

We are currently preparing the plan for the investigation of these anomalies, which should begin in early September. Once the anomalies are cleared, the Corps will remove the remaining contaminated soil and begin site restoration.

Photographs of Media Day are on p. 2 of this publication, and the work on Sedgwick Street on p. 3.

Media Day



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, invited the media to the federal property behind Sibley Hospital Aug. 7. The purpose of the Media Day was to explain the procedure for the Sedgwick Trench anomaly investigation, and show the equipment used.

Photos from bottom left, clockwise: Maj. Michael Peloquin talks to the media about the air monitoring system; a photographer shoots the modular aluminum containment structure, or MACS, used for investigating the highest probability anomalies; a soldier from Tech Escort demonstrates the suit he will wear while investigating the highest probability anomalies; Maj. Peloquin stands outside the personnel decontamination station that will be erected at the Sedgwick Street areas, and briefs the media about the procedures that will be followed; Maj. Peloquin explains the air filtration unit that is used to support the MACS.

(Photos by Doug Garman)

Sedgwick Street work



Photos from bottom left, clockwise: Inside the MACS; bricks and other debris dug from one of the two higher probability anomalies on Sedgwick Street; command post and filtration ductwork; the personnel decontamination station that was set up on Sedgwick Street; the modular aluminum containment structure, or MACS, used for investigating the highest probability anomalies; another view inside the MACS.





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Next RAB meeting

The next Resident Advisory Board will meet **Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m.** at St. David's Episcopal Church. The public is invited to attend.

Before digging

Please call the D.C. Department of Health at 202-535-1755 (**if permits are required**).
If permits are not required, please call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 1-800-434-0988.

E-mail address

Sarah Shapley, RAB co-chair, has established an e-mail address, **springvalleydc@starpower.net**, for Spring Valley residents to contact her. If you would like information about the project that might not appear on the Corps' website or in this newsletter, please send an e-mail to Sarah at the above address.

The Corps' pondent

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