



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. 4

September 2000

Corps to begin soil removal at Glenbrook property

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

Since our May issue of the *Corps'pondent*, we've completed our analysis of soil samples taken from the Glenbrook Road property. The results of this testing indicate that the soil on the property in areas near the pit excavations contains elevated levels of arsenic. Using these results, we've completed a comprehensive risk assessment of the site as well as evaluated possible alternatives designed to clean up these areas. Technical experts have recommended removing the top two feet of soil from the affected areas on the property and replacing it with new soil. This cleanup action has been carefully studied by the experts as part of an engineering evaluation and cost analysis study.

We've coordinated this recommended action with the owner of the Glenbrook Road property and plans are now in place to begin removing soil in October. We estimate it will take approximately seven weeks to complete the removal. During the removal, 15 to 20 large dump trucks per day will use the American University campus exit near Rockwood Parkway.

Both the risk assessment and



Using a hand-powered auger, a worker collects a subsurface soil sample from a property near the Glenbrook Road site.

engineering evaluation documents have been through the public review process and any significant comments received during the public comment period have been addressed in the final versions of these documents. Copies of these documents are being placed in the project's document repository at the Palisades Library as well as at the federal property behind Sibley Hospital.

Additional sampling underway

Although the elevated arsenic levels are confined primarily to the area of the earlier pit excavations, we conducted a review of historical data of the adjacent



A worker prepares to take a small sample of surface soil from a property selected by the Corps for further testing.

area and believe it is prudent to conduct additional soil sampling at several properties near the Glenbrook Road property.

We began this sampling in early August. The sampling effort involves workers collecting four surface and one subsurface soil sample from approximately 61 properties and a portion of American University.

The samples will be analyzed and testing results provided to each property owner.

Property owners who might have questions about this latest sampling effort can call me at 410-962-6784, or 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

Work at small disposal area to resume in November

The last newsletter mentioned the Corps' efforts to investigate and clean up a small disposal area adjacent to American University, identified last year while experts worked at the Glenbrook Road property.

While in this area in March, workers uncovered several large ceramic pieces, which were containerized in plastic.

Air samples at the site indicated trace amounts of industrial chemicals. Although these

compounds were not chemical warfare agents, they do interfere with the on-site monitoring equipment. For this reason, work stopped at this site until a new plan could be developed to address this situation.

The plan is nearly finished, and the schedule for the clean up of this small disposal area is being coordinated.

This new plan will involve a limited, daytime evacuation of a few residents living next to the

area as well as the closure of a portion of Rockwood Parkway near the American University campus. Affected property owners have been notified and coordination has begun.

For more information or questions on the work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line or check the Spring Valley website at:

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

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. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Deputy District Engineer, Spring Valley Maj. Brian Plaisted
Public Affairs Chief Lucy Lather
Public Affairs Specialist Doug Garman