



SPRING VALLEY MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

This monthly Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site project update is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, as part of our ongoing efforts to make information regarding the Spring Valley Partnership and neighborhood investigation more accessible to community members, elected officials, Restoration Advisory Board members, and other interested stakeholders. Specifically, the monthly update is produced to provide those who follow the project with a current snapshot of our partnering, planning and field activities, and is not designed to provide historical information or an overview of the project. Those individuals interested in broader project information, or who have follow-up questions regarding this update, are invited to contact our Community Outreach Team at (410) 962-0157.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP)

- USACE continued the effort which began in late June, digging soil and carefully removing World War I debris in the area around **American University's Public Safety Building**. To date, we have recovered a few munition related items including remnants of three bomb tail assemblies and the remains of a 3 inch Stokes mortar round. The tail assemblies were designed to create directional spin for bombs dropped from airplanes and would not pose any hazard by themselves if found intact. Similar World War I debris items were previously found during the initial investigation in the vicinity of the Public Safety Building, and are what USACE anticipated recovering during this effort. Progress has been slow due to muddy conditions related to the rain and water seepage from at least 2 nearby sources. Although one source of the excess water is now being diverted, there remains a large amount of water, potentially naturally occurring shallow groundwater, flowing into the area. These unanticipated muddy conditions make the work difficult and slow, and therefore the completion date is currently projected into Spring 2009.
- Over the past 2 months the munitions experts at the US Army Engineering and Support Center carefully reviewed the proposed structural design of the containment structure's **South Extension for the Pit 3 Project Area**, and made a variety of modifications to better fortify this hillside based structure. The final amended site safety plan was approved on September 29th by the US Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety. Construction was initiated early in September as these modifications were being made, to ensure completion at the soonest possible date. The Spring Valley Partners anticipate restarting the Project Area's intrusive operations for only 1-2 weeks, beginning the week of **October 20th**, inside the South Extension. Exact start and end dates will be provided soon to those involved in the Shelter-in-Place program. This short munitions investigation requires the **Shelter-in-Place program** be in effect for those residents and workers within 742 feet of the Pit 3 Area Investigation, during operation hours only.
- Preparations and construction of the containment structure's second East Extension is currently scheduled to begin in early November, after the South Extension investigation is completed. The entire portion of the containment structure in front of the house will be dismantled, including the South Extension along Glenbrook Road, and used to construct '**East Extension II**'. Soon after construction begins, **the structure will appear smaller from Glenbrook Road** because its front wall will be in line with the front of the house. The fencing will also be moved further up onto the property. The Shelter-in-Place program will not be in effect during the construction period as there is no risk of a chemical emergency. As it is currently planned, the intrusive digging investigation inside this smaller containment structure is scheduled to begin in early 2009.
- Depending on what is discovered during the investigations in these 2 upcoming investigations, the schedule to complete all high probability investigations at the Pit 3 area is currently projected for late **Winter 2009**.
- Six residential properties were geophysically surveyed in September. The purpose of the survey is to scan below the surface, and look for characteristics similar to munition items used at the American University Experiment Station.

Removal of Soil with Elevated Levels of Arsenic from Residential Properties

- In September, extensive soil removal activities commenced and continue at a property on the 4900 block of Indian Lane. Site preparation activities will continue at three properties in the coming weeks; one on the 4200 block of Alton Place, one on the 4900 block of Rodman Street, and one on the 4800 block of Quebec Street.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The next scheduled meeting of the RAB is Tuesday, October 14th. RAB meetings are open to the public, start at **7 PM** and are held in the basement meeting room of St. David's Episcopal Church at 5150 Macomb Street, NW.