



Spring Valley cleanup progress, May 2003

Since May 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers and its partners, the Environmental Protection Agency, the D.C. Department of Health and the Spring Valley community, have made significant progress in the Spring Valley project. Progress has been made on several fronts to include soil sampling, arsenic cleanup, ordnance investigations and health studies.

Soil sampling

- Ninety-two percent or 1,479 residential and non-residential properties of the total 1,602 properties within the Spring Valley project site have been sampled for arsenic (96 percent of the residential properties have been sampled).
- Of these, 150 properties have one or more grids above the arsenic cleanup action level of 20 parts per million.
- To date, over 20,000 soil samples were collected and analyzed for arsenic. Approximately 3,500 samples analyzed for other chemicals (Arsenic remains the only contaminant of concern).
- Results letters have been sent to 98 percent of the residential properties sampled.

Arsenic cleanup

- Over 10,660 tons of arsenic-contaminated soil has been removed from residential properties and American University campus.
- To date, 18 residential properties with the highest arsenic concentrations have been cleaned up and restored.
- Several more residential properties are scheduled for remediation this year.

Ordnance investigations

- Two burial pits have been safely removed and restoration completed. Removal of a third pit is nearly completed.
- Sedgwick Trench was investigated (two residential properties, no chemical warfare material found).
- Conventional munitions safely destroyed onsite using a controlled detonation chamber.
- Chemical munitions to be destroyed onsite in May 2003 using Explosives Destruction System.
- More geophysical/ordnance investigations planned in future years.

Health studies

- Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry conducted two exposure investigations in 2002 — none of the arsenic levels found would be expected to cause health problems.
- Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry conducted an exposure study of children attending AU Child Development Center in February 2001 — none of the children had arsenic levels that indicated unusual exposure to arsenic.
- D.C. Department of Health conducted a comparison study with Potomac, Md., and national cancer rates and did not find an increased rate for arsenic-related cancers.