



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Lot 18 Excavation

Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

Background: The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site consists of about 660 acres in the Northwest section of Washington, D.C. During World War I, the site was known as the American University Experiment Station and was used by the U.S. government for research and testing of chemical agents, equipment and munitions. Today, the Spring Valley neighborhood encompasses approximately 1,200 private homes, including several embassies, as well as American University and Wesley Theological Seminary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Defense Department's agent for the Spring Valley cleanup.

As part of that cleanup effort, the Corps, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of Health, is excavating a debris field called Lot 18 on the southern edge of the present-day American University campus.

The Lot 18 dig re-started in June with an inventive combination of new elements and existing practices that will help to safely speed up the work, allowing us to finish Lot 18 and the investigations of neighboring anomalies earlier than previously expected.

Schedule:

June 20	Digging began with 60x100 metal-frame tent in use.
January 2006	Lot 18 excavation to be completed.
January	Digging of remaining six anomalous areas on adjacent properties begins.
March	Demobilization and removal from site to be completed.

Budget: About \$13 million.

Equipment: To increase production, larger equipment is being used, including a larger excavator to dig, a motorized shaker table instead of the former manual sifting table, and a more efficient roll-off container and conveyor system for soil removal. The Lot 18 dig has been conducted inside a tent with engineering controls, and that practice will continue. Chemical agent filtration systems and air monitoring to protect the workers and the public are still be used as well, with the design of the system altered to handle a larger tent.

Engineering Control Structures: Larger equipment requires a bigger structure to work within. A three section metal frame tent that is about 60x100 feet has replaced the 30 x 60 metal-frame tent. Workers completed rigorous operational training that included thorough safety training in preparation for the June 20 start date.

Number of personnel onsite: About 50

Safety measures: The safety of the community and the workers is the primary concern. All previous safety precautions remain in place: closed site; work inside a pressurized engineering structure; stringent training; Level B protective suits; work continuously monitored on closed circuit television; redundant system of air monitors; chemical agent filtration system; soil testing; soil covered with tarps as removed from site.

For more information about Spring Valley Lot 18, contact Craig Georg, project manager, (410) 962-6782; e-mail Craig.M.Georg@usace.army.mil or Mary Beth Thompson, public affairs specialist, 410-962-4088; email Mary.B.Thompson@usace.army.mil.