



NEWS RELEASE

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First round Spring Valley groundwater sampling complete

WASHINGTON – The first round of sampling of installed groundwater monitoring wells at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site was completed last week. The samples are being analyzed, and results are expected in September.

Working in partnership, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of Health are investigating the groundwater to determine whether World War I era activities at the Army's former American University Experiment Station have affected the groundwater in Spring Valley.

Samples were collected from 23 monitoring wells within the project area, the Dalecarlia Reservoir, creeks in the area and other groundwater sampling locations. A total of 30 monitoring wells are planned for this phase of the study. Installation of the remaining seven monitoring wells, including three background wells, is awaiting required permits or rights of entry. The background wells will establish a baseline for conditions outside the project area. This baseline data will help the partners evaluate whether any contaminants that may be present are the result of Army-related activities.

In this first round of sampling, groundwater elevation data was collected to begin characterizing groundwater flow direction. Additionally, groundwater samples were collected and are being analyzed for 165 chemicals believed to have been used at American University Experiment Station during World War I. The parameters for analysis were selected through consensus by the three agencies.

Data from this first round will begin to shed light on three questions: a) What is the direction of the groundwater flow? b) Are there contaminants of concern in the groundwater? and c) If there are contaminants and the groundwater is flowing toward the Dalecarlia Reservoir, is there a potential influence on the reservoir? This is the first of several rounds of investigation to characterize the groundwater beneath the Spring Valley project area. The specific next steps in the groundwater investigation will be decided once the first round data is returned from the lab and reviewed by the Spring Valley partners. The partners will release the findings after they have been received and reviewed.

While this study will assess the possible influence on the reservoir, the finished drinking water produced by the Washington Aqueduct has consistently been shown to be safe through extensive testing, complying with all federal standards.