



NEWS RELEASE

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Debris field expansion at American University

WASHINGTON – The Spring Valley partners – the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of the Environment – announced today they are expanding the investigation of the area surrounding American University's Public Safety Building at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site in northwestern Washington, D.C.

In a partnering meeting held Aug. 30, the USACE recommended pursuing additional investigations of a 4,000-square-foot area surrounding the American University Public Safety Building after a survey of the area around the building revealed a potential debris field. The Spring Valley partners do not believe the newly identified debris field poses any immediate risk to the community or students and faculty at American University.

"EPA believes this new information indicates additional work will be required near the Public Safety Building. The Partners are working with stakeholders in an effort to incorporate this work in our schedule with minimal disruption or delay to work planned for fiscal year 2007," said Steve Hirsh, EPA's project manager for the site.

Work near the building earlier this spring revealed glass and metal debris, which prompted the investigative survey. The USACE notified American University officials of its discovery and its plan to pursue additional work in the area. The USACE is beginning work on a plan to address the scope and cost of work in the area.

“The safety of the community and our workers is the top priority during removal operations. Every necessary precaution will be taken to ensure the work gets done safely, thoroughly and with minimum disruption to the university,” said Gary Schilling, USACE Spring Valley Program Manager.

The USACE and its partners will brief the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board on what work is being envisioned at the board’s Sept. 12th meeting.

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