



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-1715
(410) 962-2809 FAX: (410) 962-3660
CONTACT: Joyce Conant
RELEASE 08-01

January 3, 2008

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and D.C. Councilmember Mary M. Cheh co-host Spring Valley community meeting

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and D.C. Councilmember Mary M. Cheh will co-host a community meeting on Jan. 8, 2008 at 7 p.m., at the Horace Mann Elementary School Community Center located at 4430 Newark Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., to discuss the recent pause in the removal of munitions at Spring Valley's Pit 3 located in the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road.

Spring Valley was the site of U.S. Army chemical weapons development and testing during World War I at the former American University Experimental Station. The area currently under investigation is the last known burial area located in the 661-acre Formerly Used Defense Site and is part of the ongoing investigation and cleanup of the site.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the Restoration Advisory Board, a citizen advisory group that oversees the USACE Spring Valley cleanup activities, and representatives of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission. This community meeting is being held in lieu of the regularly scheduled Restoration Advisory Board monthly meeting. Various technical experts, and the regulatory partners, to include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III and the D.C. Department of the Environment, will be present to answer any questions you may have.

-MORE-

“My staff and I have participated in all of the Pit 3 community briefings and meetings that involved the planning and the ongoing oversight of the Pit 3 operation, including monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings. I am pleased to co-host this meeting in order to provide the residents of Spring Valley the opportunity to discuss the ongoing removal of munitions from Pit 3 and work at neighboring properties,” said D.C. Councilmember Mary M. Cheh.

Intrusive operations began at the site Oct. 29. On Nov. 19, during the intensive investigation of Pit 3, a munitions-related item was recovered that required further investigation. Based upon that preliminary investigation, operations were paused on Dec. 5, pending a determination of what, if any, changes should be made to the investigation's protocol.

The Army Corps will present the findings of the Materiel Assessment Review Board regarding the recently discovered munitions-related item in Pit 3.

This pause in the investigation efforts at Pit 3 is part of our deliberate process in ensuring the continued safety of the residents of Spring Valley.

“There has been no additional risk to the Spring Valley Community; the munition item that has been analyzed was removed from the site in November and is safely stored on Federal property,” said Colonel Peter W. Mueller, commander, USACE Baltimore District.

-END-

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>