



US Army Corps
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Baltimore District

The Corps' Pondent

A newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Spring Valley Project area residents

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

The Corps' mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.

Partnership moves forward with 2006-2007 groundwater investigation

by Ted Henry,
Community Outreach

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. District Department of the Environment reached an agreement in June on the second phase of the groundwater investigation.

This phase will be implemented between June and November of this year.

Reaching agreement on this work plan was the culmination of several months of dialogue that not only included getting input and feedback from the partnering agencies, but also the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), local elected officials and other members of the public.

The Corps began outreach to the affected property owners immediately following the June agreement to get rights-of-entry.

Additionally, the Corps began developing the permit packages that must be submitted to the D.C. government for final approval.

"We have done everything we can think of to make this groundwater investigation an inclusive, collaborative effort," said Gary Schilling, Spring Valley project manager.

"The plan we are executing includes collecting data from diverse points within the project area, as well as various locations west, south and east of the project area."

The groundwater investigation includes sampling 29 existing groundwater monitoring wells, the installation of 11 new monitoring wells, the collection of surface water samples from 22 additional locations, and the developing of a model to better understand the relationship between the groundwater and the Dalecarlia Reservoir.

The Corps has collected groundwater samples from all the existing wells and has sent those samples to the lab for analysis. In addition, the Corps collected two rounds of groundwater elevation data.

Groundwater elevation data is used to determine both the localized and project-wide groundwater flow

directions, which is vital information for determining the source and extent of contaminants present as a result of WWI-era Army activities.

Due to the heavy rainfall that occurred during the first elevation data sampling event in June, the Corps collected the second set of groundwater elevation data in July. This was done to ensure the data's accuracy.

"This is an important aspect of investigating groundwater we want to share with the community. As circumstances and new data arise — the type, frequency and locations of sampling may need to be amended," said Schilling.

In addition to groundwater sampling, the Corps has collected 15 of the 22 planned surface water samples. The surface water sample locations focus on streams, seeps and outfalls where groundwater is suspected to be coming to the surface, providing a cost-effective method to assess groundwater quality over a large area.

The remaining surface water samples will be collected as soon as the Corps receives rights of entry from the homeowners.

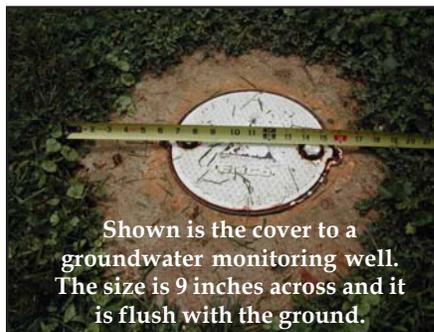
According to Schilling, the data that will be collected and analyzed over the next 6-9 months will shed a great deal of light on the extent of the perchlorate contamination the Corps has already found and what the next steps in the investigation should be.

"The Partnership is flexible enough that we can, and will, refine our approach, as needed, based on the results we get.

"In turn, I am confident that our groundwater investigation will help provide us the answers needed for success on this project," he said.

Some preliminary groundwater data is scheduled to be presented to the RAB members and attending public at the next RAB meeting, which is scheduled for September 12 at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Malcomb Street, NW.

All interested community members are encouraged to attend.



Shown is the cover to a groundwater monitoring well. The size is 9 inches across and it is flush with the ground.

Project schedule update

by Ted Henry,
Community Outreach

Based on the survey the Corps conducted last year, the community wants more information outlining what efforts are planned at Spring Valley over the next several years.

In turn, we want to provide our readers with a “heads-up” on efforts to revise the macro-schedule and when it will become available.

The Corps is currently revising the project schedule, which is also commonly referred to as the macro-schedule or lifecycle schedule.

Because the Spring Valley project is planned and executed by the Partnership, including the Corps, EPA and D.C. District Department of the Environment, any revision to the project schedule is not complete and releasable to the public until all three agencies are in agreement with the projections.

The Partnership discussed the draft revised schedule at its July 12 meeting and has it on the agenda for its August 29 and 30 meeting as well.

If the Partnership reaches consensus on its content, it will be presented at the September RAB.

If the Partners require more time, the macro-schedule will be discussed at the October RAB.

When the project schedule is complete it will be published in the following edition of the Corps’ pondent.

All are welcome to attend the RAB meetings, which are open to the public.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project progress and its challenges is encouraged to attend.

If you are interested in a specific topic and would like to know what is on the agenda for the upcoming meeting, please check our web site the weekend before the RAB date at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>.

In addition, one may receive the Corps’ monthly project updates that summarize the project’s technical project each month.

To get on the email distribution, contact Ben Rooney at ben.rooney@nab02.usace.army.mil or call 410-962-0157.

Progress continues for ordnance-related investigation in Rockwood/Grenbrook area

by Ted Henry,
Community Outreach

It has been a busy time for field investigations in the gully along the southeastern edge of American University and the 4600 block of Rockwood Parkway.

Since the January completion of the tent-enclosed excavation of the debris field known as Lot 18, several satellite projects have been planned and executed in order to bring AU and the affected residents closer to having their property and views restored to something that looks more like a neighborhood.

AU Bamboo Area

In the February/March timeframe, the Corps investigated five potential pits or trenches, a ten by ten foot area containing magnetic rock and 74 single item anomalies on the hillside above Lot 18, located behind AU buildings such as Hamilton Hall. During this time, one potential pit was also investigated on a residential property. For the most part, what was found was determined not to be related to the U.S. Army’s American University Experiment Station (AUES) efforts during WWI. There were a few exceptions, such as a piece of non-intact

glassware found near Hamilton Hall. The soil where this item was recovered was sampled and found to be elevated for arsenic (872 parts per million). This arsenic is scheduled for removal next month.

The one major exception was an anomaly cluster adjacent to AU’s Public Safety Building. Significant amounts of debris were found, including ordnance fragments, and it is suspected that this debris is an extension of the Lot 18 debris field. The Corps worked for 2 1/2 weeks removing debris to a depth of four feet and within five feet of the building. Two intact containers were also recovered.

Because it is likely that the debris extends up to and even under the Public Safety Building itself, the Partnership stopped the removal effort in this area on April 26. The Corps is assessing how to resume the excavation without damaging the structural integrity of the building. Future excavation around the Public Safety Building will be done in at least two phases.

The first phase will involve test pits at three corners of the building to assess the building’s foundation and the

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The Corps’ pondent

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Restoration Advisory Board seeks new members

by Joyce M. Conant,
Public Affairs Specialist

The RAB is comprised of 14 Spring Valley community stakeholders as well as representatives from the Corps, Environmental Protection Agency and D. C. District Department of the Environment, local business and academic institutions.

The RAB acts in an advisory capacity to assist the government agencies engaged in the investigation and cleanup of the Spring Valley formerly used defense site (FUDS). Community participation is vital to the success of the cleanup process.

The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision making process for environmental responses by making information about the environmental processes, risks and progress available to the public and establishing a formal forum for public participation on the project. There are currently nine active RAB members with openings for five community members on this board.

If you live within the project area and are interested in serving on the RAB, please complete an application and mail it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by August 31, 2006. Residents can obtain an application by calling the Public Affairs office at 410-962-2809 or go to www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley/rab.htm. The current board members will review the applications and select new members at the October 2006 meeting. The new members' two-year term begins in November 2006. Also, please note there will be no RAB meetings held in the months of August and December.

The RAB meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday evening of every month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, NW. Meetings are open to the public, and there is a community question time allotted at the end of each board meeting.

Spring Valley Resident Information Update

The Army Corps of Engineers continues to update its Spring Valley resident database. Keeping our database up to date allows us to keep all residents informed as the project evolves.

If you have moved into the Spring Valley area, to include Fort Gaines and portions of American University Park, in the last two years and have not yet contacted us, please call Ben Rooney at 410-962-0157.

Additionally, residents interested in obtaining project related information about their property should also call Rooney.

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composition of the soil around it. This effort will be conducted in the August/September timeframe. The second phase will likely involve several weeks of additional open-air intrusive investigation. The specifics of this second phase will be developed based on the results from the first phase.

Rockwood Four

Geophysical surveys conducted two and one-half years ago on four properties adjacent to Lot 18 indicated that there were various subsurface metallic anomalies that should be investigated. The Partnership's anomaly review board selected a total of 84 anomalies to be dug up and this work was completed in July. No glassware or ordnance-related material was recovered.

Kreeger Hall Roadway

In years past the Corps had installed a temporary roadway behind AU's Kreeger Hall to gain access to conduct various removal efforts.

Following the completion of Lot 18, the temporary roadway was removed and the ground beneath it was sampled

for arsenic and surveyed for subsurface anomalies. Two larger anomalies and 17 single item anomalies were identified for intrusive investigation. This work was completed in July and no Army-related debris was found. A total of 13 arsenic grids exceeding 20 ppm were identified for removal in the late August early September timeframe.

Lot 18 Over-Excavation

During the actual removal of Lot 18 debris, a variety of sidewall and floor samples were collected to determine if there was any residual soil contamination.

This sampling revealed several metals that were present in elevated concentrations, including arsenic, lead, mercury and vanadium.

By the end of August, the Corps will have excavated approximately 377 cubic yards of residual soil to remove these metals, as well as some elevated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs. This over-excavation of the residual soil will also help verify that all significant debris was removed during the Lot 18 previous removal. This is important because, during a heavy rainfall

in the spring, a sidewall from the open pit collapsed and revealed some remaining glassware and munitions debris. Additionally, a fuse for a 40-lb bomb was found on the ground surface at Lot 18 in July. This item was determined to be empty and harmless.

During the actual Lot 18 excavation between 2004 and 2006, the field team dug an extra foot in each direction once they thought they had reached soil that was free of debris. However, such random discoveries remind us that no ordnance-related investigation and removal will ever reach 100 percent certainty that all items have been removed.

Thus, this over-excavation will be a useful back-check on the adequacy of the previous Lot 18 debris removal.

The Corps' work plan includes a contingency plan to address any significant debris items if encountered. In addition, the Partnership will evaluate everything that may be found and discuss whether additional effort is needed to reach an adequate comfort level that the work at Lot 18 is complete.



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Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Lifecycle Schedule

This macro schedule is a working document that will be adjusted periodically in response to the evolving needs and priorities of the Spring Valley investigation and cleanup. Note that the tasks within this schedule have been estimated in order to facilitate planning and prioritization discussions among our regulatory partners and other stakeholders. In turn, it should be understood that each task may end up taking more or less time than currently is allocated on this schedule.

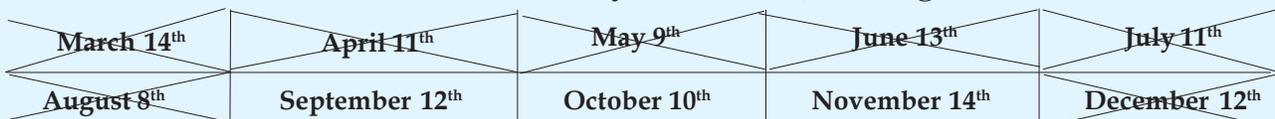
	FY 06 Oct. 05 - Sept. 06	FY 07 Oct. 06 - Sept. 07	FY 08 Oct. 07 - Sept. 08	FY 09 Oct. 08 - Sept. 09	FY 10 Oct. 09 - Sept. 10
MMRP Military Munitions Response Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot 18 • Additional pits around Lot 18 • Intrusive invest. 5-10 residential properties* • Work plan develop. for 4825 Glenbrook Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4825 Glenbrook • Work Plan develop. for 4835 Glenbrook • Work Plan develop. For Dalecarlia Woods • Geophys on 10-15 res. properties • Intrusive invest. on 5-10 res. properties • New AOI invest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4835 Glenbrook • Geophys on 5 residential properties • Intrusive invest. on 5 res. properties • Geophys Dalecarlia Woods/Impact Area • New AOI investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalecarlia Woods intrusive investigation • Geophys on 5 res. properties • Intrusive on 5 res. properties • New AOI investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalecarlia Woods intrusive investigation • Intrusive investigation on 5 res. properties • New AOI Investigation
HTW Hazardous and Toxic Waste Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil removal - 124 arsenic grids • Groundwater investigation • Phytoremediation • Soil sampling • Soil gas sampling - 4825 Glenbrook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil removal - 124 arsenic grids • Groundwater investigation • Phytoremediation • Soil sampling • New Area of Interest (AOI) investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil removal - 124 arsenic grids • Groundwater investigation • Phytoremediation • Soil sampling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil removal - 56 arsenic grids • Phyto-remediation • RI/FS Report** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI/FS Report finalization • Joint project close-out

* Geophysical surveying of add'l properties will not be conducted in FY06 in order to catch up with the backlog of properties which may need to be intrusively investigated.
 ** The Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report process will include an evaluation of human and ecological risk resulting from any residual contamination remaining. If the risk assessment indicates the need for further cleanup, the necessary remedial action will be included in the macro schedule at that time.

Please call Ben Rooney at 410-962-0157, if you have any questions regarding this schedule.

November 2005

2006 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Dates



7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street NW