



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
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.

Progress Report: a project by project snapshot

by Craig Georg and Ed Hughes,
Project Managers

Lot 18:

Work at tent location seven began Dec. 9 and concluded Jan. 12. From Dec. 16 through Jan. 3 work was discontinued for the holidays. The eighth tent move was completed Jan. 23, and digging resumed on the 24th. Project personnel completed location eight Jan. 26, and all work requiring the tent and air filtration system is now complete. Project personnel will be dismantling the tent and removing equipment from the site over the next four weeks.

Recent finds included five intact glass bottles containing various quantities of liquid, which were recovered Jan. 9. The bottles have been sent to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center laboratory for analysis.

An intact round was recovered Jan. 10. Analysis determined that the round was empty of any material that could present an explosive or fire hazard.

American University:

On Dec. 15, 10 pounds of scrap glass and crockery were collected from surface soil adjacent to the Public Safety building. This debris was discovered by American University contractors while digging a utility trench in November.

These items were tested for the presence of chemical warfare materiel, and all results were negative.

On Dec. 16, three soil samples were collected from the Public Safety building area. The analytical results were reviewed by members of the partnership from The Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C. Department of Health, and the Army Corps of Engineers in January. A work plan is being developed with the goal of excavating the area in the spring to remove any remaining debris and any soil containing unacceptable levels of metals or other chemicals.

Anomalies investigations:

Development continues on a work plan to address six low probability anomalous areas adjacent to Lot 18: five on American University's property and one on a residential property. The Corps anticipates digging these to resolve the anomalies in late winter or early spring.

Groundwater investigation:

Round one ground water sampling concluded when samples were collected in December from the six wells that were recently installed. These six wells bring the total number of new wells sampled in round one to 29. Results from these

(Update continued on p. 2)

PHYTOREMEDIATION

before...



after...



Photos courtesy of Edenspace

The 'before' photo illustrates how the arsenic eating ferns blend in with the existing landscaping and vegetation. The 'after' photo illustrates how the process restores the landscaping back to the original look. The phytoremediation process lasts approximately six months from planting through harvesting. This remediation technique is considered a less invasive approach as opposed to the traditional dig-and-haul method.



Groundwater samples were collected Dec. 19 - 22 from the remaining six monitoring wells that were installed in the fall of 2005. (Photo by Maj. Andy Off, site operations officer)

(Update continued from p. 1)

wells and the 23 sampled in mid- 2005 will help the partnership decide whether additional wells are required to determine if past Army activities have impacted the groundwater flowing beneath the project area.

Soil removal:

The Corps recently completed restoration of a Warren Street property and a 49th Street property. Soil removal activities stopped for a holiday break between Dec. 17 and Jan. 2. Removal activities resumed at two 52nd Street properties Jan. 9 with completion tentatively scheduled for mid-February.

Phytoremediation:

Approximately 10,000 ferns were planted in 2005, covering 33 grids or plots at 12 locations. In late September soil samples were collected, and in November, at the end of the growing season, the ferns were harvested and collected for proper disposal. The soil reductions in 2005 mirrored the 2004 results, resulting in an average soil reduction of 9 parts per million. The partnership agreed that phytoremediation is a viable alternative for soil excavation on select specific properties and agreed to do one more year of field testing. Looking ahead for 2006, the partnership will follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act process for proposing phytoremediation as a selected alternative to address elevated arsenic in soil, which will include amending the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis released in 2003 and holding a public meeting and public comment period on the proposal.

Area of Interest Task Force:

The task force completed and signed the report for Area of Interest 11 (52nd Court) and made progress toward completing the report for AOI 22 (Mercury Contamination Area) during their meeting Dec. 20. They met again Jan. 31.

The Partners finalized and signed the Tier 1 memoranda for record outlining the consensus path forward for AOIs 8 (POI 12), 10 (Westmoreland Recreation Center) and 14 (Sharpe Bunker on Wesley Seminary) on Dec. 5. In recent months, the Tier 1 partners agreed to conduct an additional investigation of AOI 14 (Sharpe Bunker on Wesley Seminary) to determine if anything remains of a World War I era bunker that was reported by a former Spring Valley resident to have existed on the grounds of the Wesley Seminary.

They also agreed to consider AOI 8 (POI 12), as a location for additional soil sampling, and they agreed with the AOITF's recommendation that no further action is required on AOI 10 (Westmoreland Recreation Center). In accordance with the AOITF Guidelines developed by the partners, the final AOI reports for these three areas and the accompanying Tier 1 decision memoranda were provided to the community Restoration Advisory Board members at their December meeting.

Restoration Advisory Board:

The RAB met Jan. 10 at St. David's Episcopal Church. D.C. Department of Health personnel held a discussion with the board about the \$250,000 allocated by the D.C. City Council for a Spring Valley health study. One option being considered by D.C. Health is to use the money, which will expire at the end of the fiscal year, to develop a study plan. Concerns were expressed that there is neither enough time in this fiscal year, nor enough money currently allocated to conduct a thorough study.

The board will meet again Feb. 14. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

Editor's note:

Gary Schilling, Spring Valley program manager, returned after successful completion of a temporary detail, which began in November. Schilling returned to his Spring Valley duties Feb. 6.

Having digging done on your property?

Safety fact sheets designed for contractors working in Spring Valley are available from the Corps of Engineers:

- Call the toll-free information line at (800) 434-0988; or
- Call the community outreach team at (410) 962-0157; or
- Send a request via email to Ben.Rooney@usace.army.mil. Provide a mailing address, and the safety fact sheet will be sent to you.



The Corps'pondent

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Revised Formerly Used Defense Site boundary finalized: Current shift adds 28 new parcels

by Gary Schilling,
Program Manager

Recently, the Corps conducted a review of the northeast portion of the project boundary of the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. Based on this review it was concluded that a portion of the boundary will be moved about 90 feet to the northwest.

The boundary review was conducted in response to requests by property owners who were seeking clarity with the northwest portion of the boundary. The assessment used a 1918 real estate parcel map and 1927 aerial imagery and also included discussions with the regulatory partners, the Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of Health.

It was determined that the project boundary should be expanded between Windom Place and Albermarle Street, which changed the stair-stepped line to a sloped line, approximately 90 feet out from the original line.

Currently there is no data to support that the new parcels contain elevated levels of arsenic in the soil. Historical information from this area indicates this portion of the site was used to train engineering troops in building trenches and not for chemical warfare research.

Additionally, one of 14 properties along the previous boundary line sampled found elevated arsenic, and these levels were only slightly above the norm based on naturally present arsenic or from other non-military sources.

Furthermore, two of the 28 new parcels affected by the shift have already been sampled, and the result has shown these parcels to have normal arsenic levels.

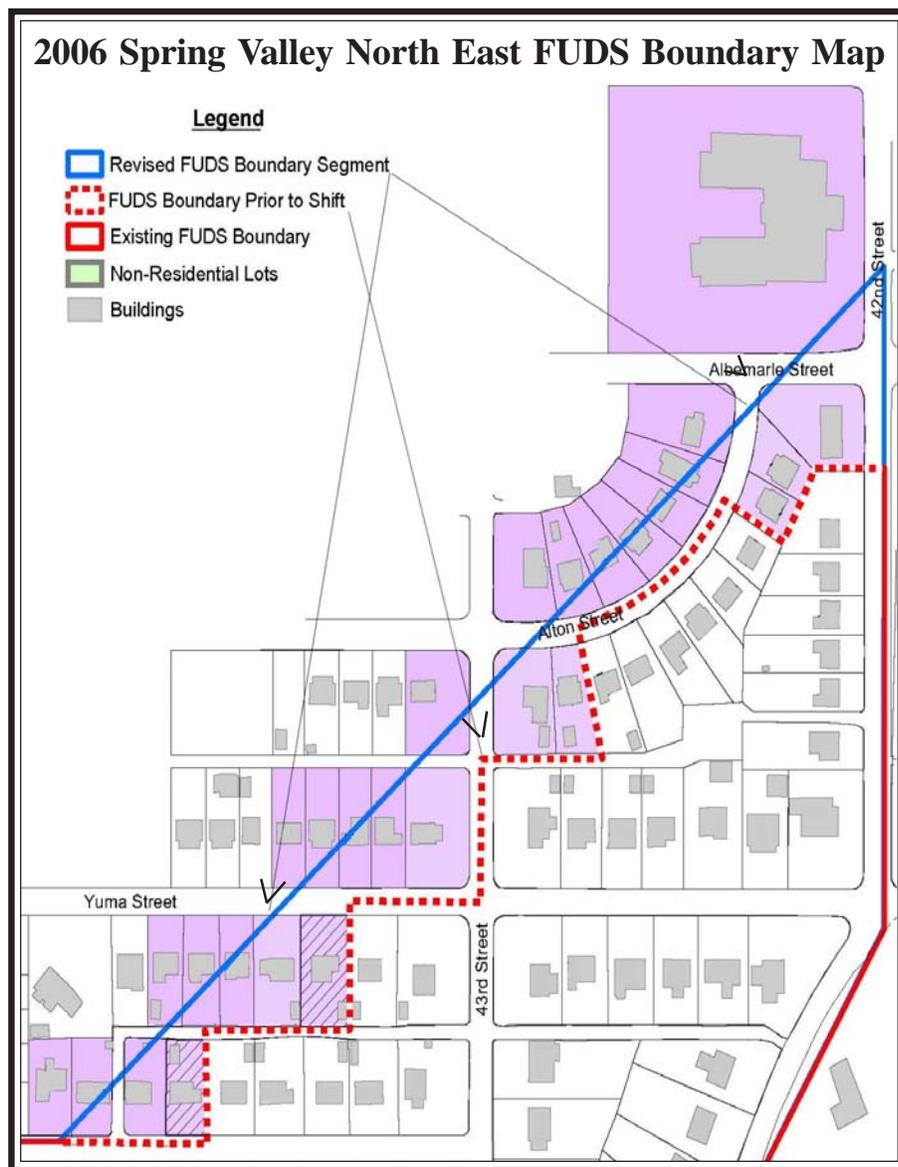
Even though the indications that contamination may be present on

these properties is low, the Corps is committed to the Spring Valley community and conducting a thorough and complete investigation before bringing the project to a close. The progress in meeting this goal could not have been made without the support of the affected community members.

As of the day the *Corps'pondent* went to press, the Corps had received approximately 33 percent of the needed rights-of-entry. Receiving these within the next 30 days is crucial for allowing the sampling process to begin. The

Corps' goal is to provide residents with preliminary arsenic results in March.

Since 1993, the Corps has been conducting an investigation of the Spring Valley site, which consists of the land used by the U.S. Army from 1917 to 1920 for chemical warfare research and engineer troop training. The Spring Valley project area is approximately 661 acres and encompasses Spring Valley, Fort Gaines and a portion of the American University Park neighborhoods.





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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	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 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 • Phytoremediation • 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

March 14 th	April 11 th	May 9 th	June 13 th	July 11 th
August 8 th	September 12 th	October 10 th	November 14 th	December 12 th

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