



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

The Corps' pondent

a newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the residents of Spring Valley

January 2000



Left, site of current work. Above, a worker begins the mechanical excavation at the first anomalous area at the Glenbrook Road property.

Excavation work at Glenbrook Road nears completion

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

Since our December newsletter, we've completed 95 percent of our work on the second anomalous area at the Glenbrook Road site. As a result of this work, we've removed 481 drums of excavated soil over 33 days of work.

We have also removed 55 75mm shells (46 have been empty), 2 cylinders (1 containing mustard agent), 92 intact glass containers containing liquids and solids, a layer of broken ceramic shards, numerous empty or broken glass items and a large quantity of metal debris.

Our experts have examined this second pit and have determined that we've reached native undisturbed soil. A small portion of the

pit that appears to contain fill material and extends outside the vapor containment structure will be investigated over the next few weeks.

Because of space constraints in this area of the Glenbrook Road site, we are unable to move the containment structure over this portion of the pit. To investigate this area, we plan to excavate this remaining portion using mechanical equipment. This work will involve a very limited evacuation of some residents in the immediate area.

This same type of mechanical excavation is currently being done on a small area of the first pit, which presented us with similar obstacles. This work, too, involves a very limited evacuation. When we complete our mechanical excavation of the first pit, we will dis-

mantle the vapor containment structure and begin the mechanical excavation of the remaining portion of the second pit.

When our work is finished on this second pit, we will have completed our investigation for buried World War I chemical agents on the Glenbrook Road site.

For more information on our work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988. Daily updates are recorded on this phone line, and are posted to the Spring Valley website at:

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

Please feel free to call me at the project office on the federal property weekdays from 8 to 4:30 p.m. at 202-686-3359.



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Results of soil testing at Glenbrook Road site indicate some elevated levels

The results of the soil testing at the Glenbrook Road property indicate that the soil across a large area in the backyard contains a level of arsenic higher than the acceptable standard for residential areas.

Corps officials will meet with the property owner to discuss these results and the possible steps needed to remediate the affected soil. One possible step could involve the removal of the top layer of soil and the backfilling of the affected area with clean soil.

To help determine if any properties adjacent to the Glenbrook Road property contain elevated levels of arsenic, additional soil sampling data will be collected.

This information will help properly characterize the area around this property and determine if any additional response actions would be needed. The soil sampling effort will be coordinated with area

residents and could begin later this year.

As part of the planned investigation of the two anomalous areas on the Glenbrook Road property, all of the excavated soil is being tested and analyzed for arsenic and other compounds as it is removed from the site.

The results of this testing have been used to determine the proper off-site disposal of the excavated soil. Earlier in the investigation of the first anomalous area or disposal pit, elevated levels of arsenic were detected in soil samples. This soil has been removed and properly disposed of as part of the Corps' planned investigation.

Additional sampling results indicate some elevated levels of arsenic remain in the base of this first pit. Later this month, this soil will be removed.

Arsenic is a component of Lewisite, one of the World War I

chemical agents developed at the American University Experiment Station. It is also a naturally occurring element that is widely distributed in the environment. Low levels of arsenic are found in most fossil fuels, but the main use of arsenic in the United States is for pesticides.

The Corps will conduct an "availability session" at the federal property trailers behind Sibley Hospital on Thursday, Jan. 27. During the day, from 3 to 8 p.m., experts from the Corps, D.C. Health Department and the Environmental Protection Agency will be available to discuss one-on-one with Spring Valley residents any issues regarding their property and/or the current Glenbrook Road property work.

For directions or further information, call 202-686-3359, or the public affairs office at 1-800-434-0988.

The Corps'pondent

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