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.

Update for recovery of buried munitions on Glenbrook Road

by Dan Noble
Spring Valley Project Manager

The March edition of the Corps' pondent informed readers about the upcoming effort at Pit 3, located in the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road.

This update is to inform the community of the ongoing preparations since March and to provide additional details of the work.

Preparations such as leasing, surveying, landscape appraisal and initial site set-up have all been underway. In early May, trees were removed to clear the site where the removal operation will take place.

The basic approach to the work remains the same. Three person crews will dig and remove munitions known to be buried in this pit.

The crews will work inside an Engineered Control Structure (ECS) consisting of a modular aluminum containment structure for fragmentation control and a vapor containment cover to control any release of chemical warfare materiel.

The entire structure will be under negative pressure, and all air pulled out of the ECS will undergo filtration through multiple filters to remove any harmful substances.

Qualified Army technicians will be on hand to identify and safely handle recovered munitions and to monitor the air for any release of a chemical agent.

Medical support will be available on-site during working hours and the entire site will be guarded by security officers during non-work hours.

Recent comments by the property owner, American University, have led the Corps to review the design of the ECS.

The actual digging at Glenbrook Road will not begin until all comments on the design are considered and addressed.

While delay can be frustrating, this cautious approach reflects the highest priority placed on safety by all parties.

The Corps now anticipates a Fall start date for the digging to begin. Once underway, the expected duration of the effort is fourteen weeks, with three to four weeks of site restoration and a close-out period.

During this same time period, in addition to the Pit 3 dig, a test pit investigation will be conducted. This will include the remainder of the property, and the property next door. The investigation involves the digging of pits on a grid pattern to locate any additional munitions burial areas. It was a test pit investigation that led to the discovery of Pit 3.

More information will be available at the community meeting to be held on July 12, 2007, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Sibley Memorial Hospital auditorium. Representatives from the Corps and its regulatory partners will be on hand to present information and answer questions. Please consider attending to find out more information about the Army's activities in the Spring Valley community.

Upcoming Meetings

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
July 10, 2007
7-9:30 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal Church
5150 Macomb St., N.W.

USACE Community Meeting
July 12, 2007
7-9 p.m.
Sibley Memorial Hospital Auditorium
5255 Loughboro Rd., N.W.

Please note: There will be no August RAB meeting.

Anomaly investigations scheduled to begin at Spring Valley this month

by Jennifer Walsh
Public Affairs Specialist

During the next few months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and its Spring Valley project partners plan to intrusively investigate seven properties where unidentified metal objects were detected in 2004.

The following questions and answers are meant to give Spring Valley residents a better understanding of the procedures used to select the seven properties and the investigative work they can expect to see this summer.

What are geophysical surveys?

Geophysical surveys are non-intrusive scans of the surface and sub-surface of the ground. In other words, the study is conducted without digging below the surface.

Instead, geophysical equipment is used to pick up signals from the anomalies, or unidentified metal objects, buried below the surface similar to the way a metal detector picks up signals from buried metals.

How are properties chosen for geophysical surveys?

Properties are chosen for geophysical surveys based on their location within Spring Valley. USACE referenced historical maps, aerial photographs and the American University Experiment Station archives to gain a better understanding of where potential munitions and chemical warfare materiel could be buried.

What happens after a geophysical survey?

The Anomaly Review Board reviews the results of the geophysical surveys and decides which properties need more in-depth investigations. During ARB meetings, many anomalies are ruled out as cultural materials such as water sprinklers and plumbing pipes. Anomalies that cannot be explained and are large enough to be potential burial pits and trenches, as well as, single buried munitions are recommended for an intrusive anomaly investigation.

If my house is chosen for an intrusive anomaly investigation, should I be concerned?

"All of the properties selected for intrusive anomaly investigation this year have been evaluated and determined to be low probability investigations, meaning the chance of finding buried munitions or chemical warfare materiel is remote," said Lan Reeser, Spring Valley technical manager.

What is an intrusive anomaly investigation?

Intrusive anomaly investigations are more hands-on than geophysical surveys. Since the results of the geophysical survey could not identify the anomaly, the next step is to dig up the buried anomaly for visual inspection.

Parsons, the contracting firm with a local office in Fairfax, Va, will send a field team to the affected properties to dig up the anomalies. The digging is most frequently done by hand with a shovel, but occasionally an anomaly may be located far enough below the surface to warrant the use of small equipment, such as a mini-excavator.

What happens to the anomalies?

There are two possible outcomes of an anomaly investigation. If the anomaly is identified as a non-threatening utility feature, it is generally left untouched and the situation is explained to the homeowner.

However, if construction debris or a more threatening anomaly is uncovered, additional measures are taken by the investigation team. "The anomaly investigation team will re-acquire the original survey point, dig and remove the identified anomaly, then re-survey the affected area to make sure the original signal indicating the anomaly has been reduced by a minimum of 90 percent," said Reeser.

What about my landscaping?

The last phase of the investigation is backfilling and restoration of the disturbed areas. Most of the properties are backfilled using the original soil.

However, properties scheduled for arsenic soil removal work may be backfilled with clean soil if the anomaly is located within an arsenic grid.

Six of the seven properties scheduled for intrusive anomaly investigations are also scheduled for arsenic soil removal work within the next year.

Disturbance to landscape features during the intrusive anomaly investigations will be kept to a minimum.

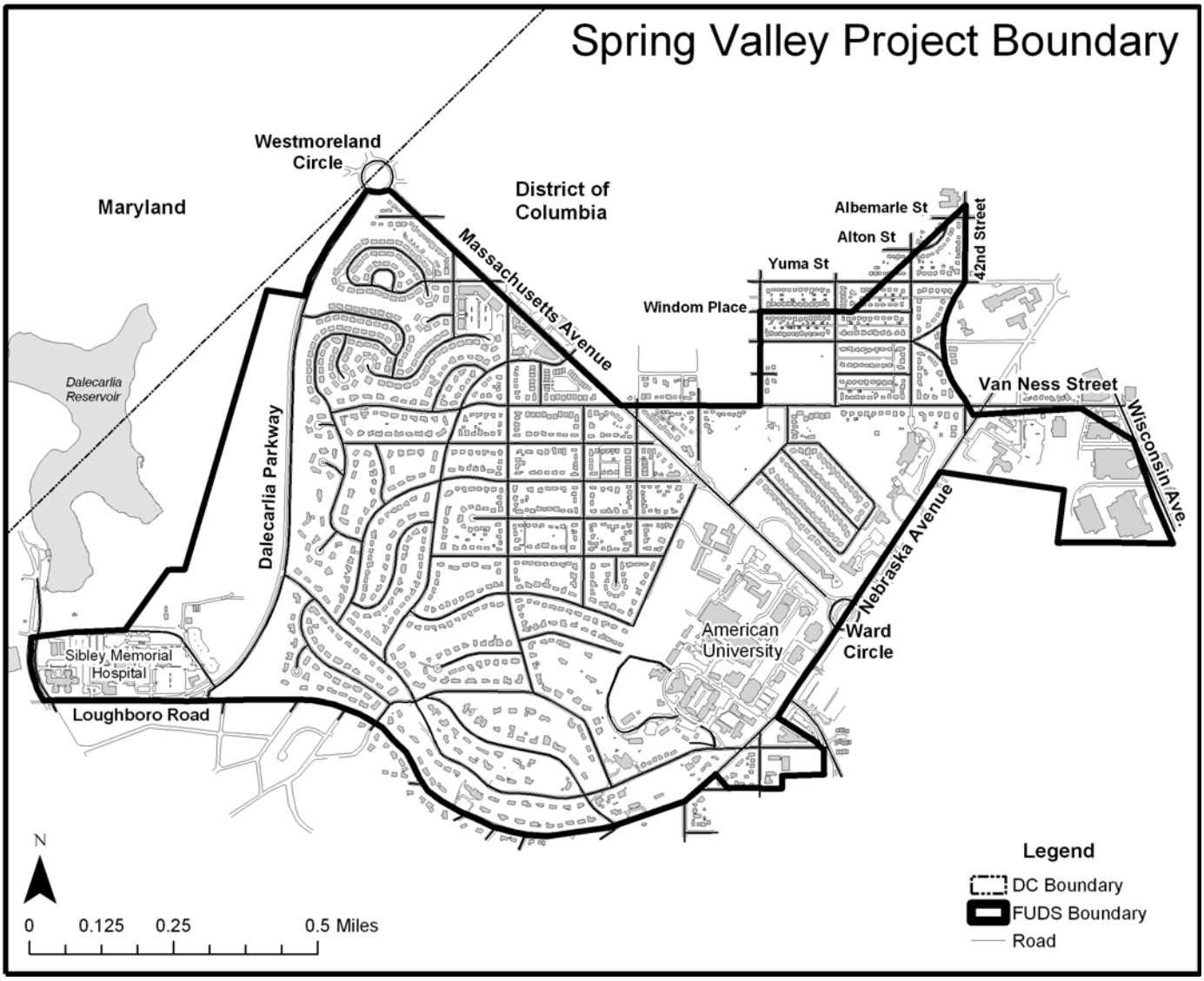
Landscape surveys will be conducted both pre- and post-excavation to assess the impact of the investigation on the landscape so that appropriate restoration measures can be taken.

How long does the process take?

On average, it takes about one week to complete the investigation process on each property. USACE expects to begin work on the seven properties by mid-July.

What is the goal of the investigations?

"The overall goal of the geophysical and intrusive anomaly investigation effort is to use the best available technologies and site information to safely locate and remove munitions and chemical warfare materiel that may still remain within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site," said Reeser.



Groundwater sampling update

In June, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' groundwater contractor, URS Corporation from Gaithersburg, Md., gathered additional rounds of groundwater and surface water samples in and near the Spring Valley project area.

The sampling included the 39 existing monitoring wells with additional sampling points for an overall total of 73 sampling points.

Preliminary data is expected to be available later this summer for Partnership review.

Shown left: Technicians from URS sample one of the monitoring wells to further study groundwater quality in the project area. (courtesy photo)

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Community Meeting
July 12, 2007
7-9 p.m.
(See inside for details)

Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

Project Lifecycle Schedule

The 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. The tasks within this schedule have been estimated in order to facilitate planning and prioritization discussions among our regulatory partners and other stakeholders. It should be understood that each task may end up taking more or less time than is currently allocated on this schedule.

	FY 07 Oct 06 –Sept 07	FY 08 Oct 07 –Sept 08	FY 09 Oct 08 –Sept 09	FY 10 Oct 09 –Sept 10	FY 11 Oct 10 –Sept 11
MMRP Military Munitions Response Program	▪ 4825 Glenbrook Pit 3 investigation ▪ 4825/4835 Glenbrook test pit investigation ▪ Intrusive investigation - 7 residential properties ▪ Geophys. Glenbrook Road area ▪Wide area assessment of Dalecarlia Woods	▪ Ordnance disposal ▪ 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Intrusive investigation – 1 residential property ▪ Intrusive investigation - AU Public Safety Building ▪ Geophys. residential/range fan properties - 22 ▪ Geophys. AOI ▪ AU Public Safety Building air sampling	▪ Geophys. Dalecarlia ▪ Restoration of 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Geophys. 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation - 15 residential properties ▪ Geophys. AOI ▪ Intrusive investigation - AOI	▪Intrusive investigation - Dalecarlia ▪ Geophys. 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation – 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation - AOI	▪ RI/FS Report,** Proposed Plan and Decision Document
HTW Hazardous and Toxic Waste Program	▪ Arsenic removal (124 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ 4825 Soil gas ▪ Lot 18 risk analysis ▪ Background soil sampling	▪ Arsenic removal (124 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI soil sampling & removal ▪ Arsenic removal at 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Ecological risk assessment	▪ Arsenic Removal (56 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI Sampling	▪ Property reimbursements ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI Sampling	▪ RI/FS Report, Proposed Plan and Decision Document

** 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 schedule at that time.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception of August and December, at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street N.W.