



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

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Search for chemical agents ends at Glenbrook property

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

In the March issue of the *Corps'pondent*, we mentioned the efforts to excavate the final portion of the second pit on the Glenbrook Road site. We have completed this work and have found no chemical warfare agent or ordnance items at this area.

During our work, we collected soil samples, which are currently being analyzed. The initial results of these samples indicate that there is no contamination remaining in the soil there.

Once the review of the sample results is completed, we will backfill the second pit area with new soil. This essentially completes the search for buried chemical agents at the Glenbrook Road property.

Chemical items removed

During the year-long search of the two disposal pits on the Glenbrook Road property, 14 ordnance items containing World War I chemical warfare agent were removed from the two pits and sent to the federal property behind Sibley Hospital for safe storage.

On April 19 and 20, Army experts safely transported seven of these items to Pine Bluff Arse-

nal, Ark., for storage while awaiting disposal. The remaining seven items were transported to Edgewood Arsenal, Md., for research and testing.

In other work at the Glenbrook Road site, we are finalizing a comprehensive risk assessment of the site in order to evaluate if any risk to human health is posed by the elevated arsenic levels in soil at the Glenbrook property.

Analysis of surface soil samples collected in February indicated that the elevated arsenic levels discovered on the property are confined primarily in the area near the pit excavations.

Additional samples needed

To further investigate the site, we are preparing work plans for subsurface sampling at the site. Samples will be taken at 2-foot intervals to a maximum depth of 10 feet at 10 different locations on the property.

Given the results of the February testing, we will recommend appropriate cleanup actions as part of an engineering evaluation of possible alternatives.

The risk assessment and engineering evaluation documents are scheduled to be completed and available for public review in June. We will post the date on

our website and information line when the documents are available.

Copies of the documents will be placed in the project's document repository at the Palisades Library as well as at the federal property location behind Sibley Hospital.

Although the elevated arsenic levels are confined primarily to the pit excavations, Corps experts have reviewed the historical data of the adjacent area and believe it is prudent to conduct additional arsenic sampling at properties adjacent to the Glenbrook Road property.

Detailed plans are currently being developed for the sampling.

Under this plan, four surface and one subsurface soil sample will be taken and analyzed per half acre.

Meeting planned May 31

Property owners affected by the sampling will soon receive letters about the upcoming work and will have an opportunity on May 31 to talk one-on-one with Corps officials and our partners about their property and the proposed plan.

Please feel free to call me at **202-686-3359** if you have questions or need further information.



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Corps to clean up small disposal area adjacent to A.U.

While working at the Glenbrook Road property this past January, Army ordnance experts began the cleanup of a small area adjacent to the property and near American University's Kreeger Hall, which contained pieces of metal and glass debris.

Due to bad weather, workers could only complete about 75 percent of this work. No hazardous items were recovered.

When work at this area resumed March 30, workers uncovered several large ceramic pieces, which they containerized

in plastic. They also collected an air sample, and the results indicated trace amounts of industrial chemicals.

Although these compounds are not chemical warfare agents, they do interfere with the Corps' on-site monitoring system. Because of this interference, Corps personnel will develop a new plan to address this situation.

It is anticipated that a filtered tent structure will be used to contain any vapors while experts complete the remaining cleanup of this area, currently

scheduled to begin in August.

In the meantime, this small area has been covered and sealed and fencing has been installed around the area in question.

For more information on our work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988.

Weekly 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>

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