



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

May 2006 ~ Vol. 8, No. 2

<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.

Questions and answers regarding ordnance finds

by Ted Henry,
Community Outreach

On March 8, 2006, a Corps contractor conducting arsenic soil removal unexpectedly unearthed an intact ordnance item approximately three feet from the foundation of a residential property.

The contractor called the Spring Valley Site Operations Officer who then dialed 311, which initiated a response from the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police's Bomb Squad.

While on site, the bomb squad identified the ordnance as military munitions and then phoned the 767th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from Fort McNair. Four residences were temporarily evacuated for safety reasons before EOD X-rayed the item and conducted three tests to determine if the round contained chemical agent. Once the item was determined to not contain chemical agent it was packaged and transported to Quantico, Va., where it was destroyed. Post-detonation inspection by the 767th concluded that the round was either empty or partially filled with sand.

As the situation unfolded, the Corps communicated directly with affected property owners, immediately notified Spring Valley partners at the EPA and D.C. Department of Health, and issued a news release.

The munition discovery and response was also a topic of discussion at the March Restoration Advisory Board meeting. The following nine questions were raised in different forums; the questions and responses are provided in an effort to further address residential concerns.

1. Was the community ever in danger?

No, onsite tests concluded that the round did not contain chemical warfare material and was safe to transport. When the round was destroyed in Quantico, Va., it was detonated on a secure military range.

Based on the evidence collected, the round did not

contain chemical agent or the components for it to pose an explosive risk.

2. Did the process go as planned?

Yes, when a suspect munition is found unexpectedly, protocol is to call D.C. police (911) who then notifies its bomb squad. If they determine the item to be a military ordnance item, they call for military EOD support. If EOD determines

the item to potentially contain chemical agents, it calls the technical escort unit from Edgewood, Md.

The TEU is trained specifically to handle chemical munitions. In this case, EOD identified it as a non-chemical round and carried out their mission to remove the item safely from the neighborhood and dispose of it in accordance with U.S. Army protocols.

3. What is a resident supposed to do if he or she discovers a munition on their property

or in the neighborhood?

If a resident, contractor, or property owner discovers munitions the same procedure as illustrated in question #2 should be followed. The first step is to immediately move away from the item. The second step is to call the D.C. Police by dialing 911. The third step, while maintaining distance between you and the item, is to make sure no one else approaches while waiting for the police to arrive.

4. Was the contractor surprised by the discovery?

The contractor was surprised by the discovery because they were there removing soil with elevated levels of arsenic, and not for ordnance removal. Upon discovery the contractor followed the appropriate procedures by withdrawing from the immediate vicinity and notifying the police through the site operations officer.

5. How did the Corps miss this item when digging anomalies?

Unfortunately, houses and other cultural features such as metal fences and electrical wires can interfere with geophysical

(Q&A continued on p. 3)



A World War I era Stokes mortar was recently unearthed while contractors were removing arsenic contaminated soil at a Quebec Street property. (Photo courtesy of Severson)

Phase II groundwater investigation planning continues

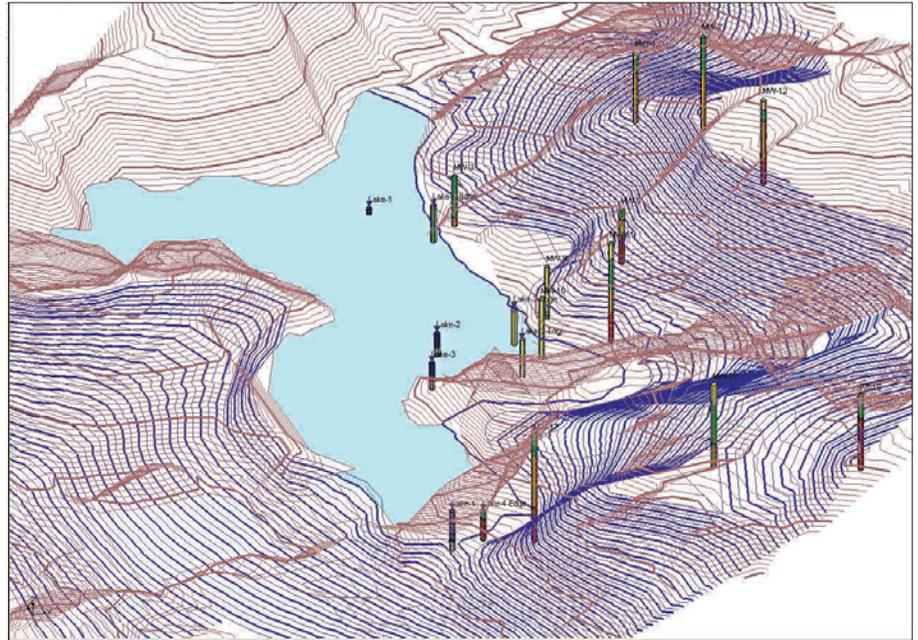
by Ed Hughes,
Project Manager

After reviewing the first round of groundwater data collected last year, the Corps is currently drafting a work plan for the next phase in the groundwater investigation. The work plan will address where additional monitoring wells need to be installed and what sampling to conduct over the next six months.

The Corps recently presented the Partnership's draft groundwater investigation objectives at the March Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Then at the April RAB meeting, the Corps' hydrogeologist presented the current understanding of groundwater flow in the area and its relationship to the Dalecarlia Reservoir.

In the April meeting the Corps explained that the investigation data collected suggests the likelihood of limited groundwater seepage in specific locations on the east side of the reservoir.

Currently the amount of groundwater entering the reservoir is expected to be minor in relation to the tremendous volume of water entering the reservoir daily from the Potomac River. Because of the perchlorate concentrations found south



A 3-D model of the Dalecarlia reservoir was shown at the April Restoration Advisory Board meeting to illustrate the location of the extensive monitoring well system and the relationship between the flow of groundwater and the reservoir. (Image courtesy of USACE, Baltimore District)

of the reservoir, part of the upcoming investigation will include some modeling to study whether any contaminated groundwater could adversely impact the reservoir in the future.

Following the April RAB meeting, the Corps circulated groundwater planning surveys to various people; partners, Restoration Advisory Board members, the RAB's technical advisor and other active community members and solicited feedback. Several priorities, based on partner and stakeholder input, will receive attention this year as the partners work toward consensus.

The Partnership is exploring installation of additional wells and collecting more samples to better define the nature and extent of perchlorate found in the groundwater south of the reservoir and in

the Rockwood Parkway-Glenbrook Road area. The highest detection of perchlorate to date is 70 parts per billion, which exceeds the Department of Defense's level of concern of 24 parts per billion, which was found in a monitoring well on Glenbrook Road.

Another aspect of the study receiving attention this year is the need to begin characterizing the water quality in the broader project area. Sampling last year focused on groundwater in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir and known burial pits. The Phase II draft plan will propose collecting surface water samples from several locations and analyzing those samples primarily for perchlorate and arsenic, the two prominent constituents of concern identified in the investigative sampling.

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.

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The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660, Spring Valley Information Line: (800) 434-0988. It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 2,200. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Project web site: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>

Baltimore Commander & District Engineer Col. Robert J. Davis
 Program Manager Gary Schilling
 Project Managers Craig Georg, Ed Hughes
 Public Affairs Specialist Shawn M. Walleck

Project team updates District of Columbia city council

by Gary Schilling,
Program Manager

On April 12, Col. Robert J. Davis, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, along with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region III and Washington D.C. Department of Health, participated in a roundtable discussion held by the Washington D.C. Council's Committee on Public Works and the Environment.

Others who testified before the committee included the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board's technical advisor, a former employee of D.C. Department of Health, a representative from the Natural Resource Defense Council and an active public stakeholder.

Davis provided testimony on major project progress, and the Spring Valley groundwater investigation, which includes the Corps' ongoing efforts to ensure the Dalecarlia Reservoir and drinking water supply remains safe.

Davis explained to the committee and Councilmember at-large Carol Schwartz that there have been no significant detections in the groundwater wells closest to the reservoir. He did acknowledge that some limited groundwater is likely seeping into the reservoir at specific locations, although the volume of groundwater entering the reservoir is likely to be minute compared to the volume of Potomac River water entering the reservoir everyday.

These opportunities to update the local elected officials are critical for the long-term success of the Spring Valley project.

The council members are elected by the people to serve their needs and interests, and while we do our best to keep them well informed through monthly project e-mail updates, there is no substitute for being face-to-face discussing these important issues.

There were several concrete benefits that came out of the



(Photo by Shawn M. Walleck, USACE)

(from l to r) Hamid Karimi, D.C. Department of Health interim chief for the Bureau of Hazardous Material; Steve Hirsh, Environmental Protection Agency regional program manager for Spring Valley; Tom Jacobus, general manager of the Washington Aqueduct; and Col. Robert J. Davis, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District testified April 12, 2006, before the D.C. city council on Spring Valley's groundwater study and overall project progress.

roundtable discussion. For example, the discussion provided the Corps with another source of comments that could be considered in the collaborative groundwater planning process. These have already been reviewed by the Spring Valley project team and specific concerns, such as perchlorate discharge to the Potomac River, are being considered in the development of the groundwater work plan for this year.

Several other follow-up actions were identified from the roundtable discussion and the Corps is in the progress of addressing them and responding to Councilmember Schwartz and her colleagues.

(Q&A continued from p. 1)

technology. This item was found very close to the house where there were several identified interferences. An earlier geophysical survey on that property identified specific anomalies which had been dug-up. None of those excavated items were ordnance-related.

6. Does this mean other ordnance could have been or could be missed?

Yes. No geophysical investigation for ordnance is 100 percent accurate and complete, unless all soil in the entire potentially impacted area is excavated and sifted. The Corps and its Partners do their best to identify properties where ordnance most likely will be and use the most up-to-date technology to survey the property. Once the survey data is available, the Partners decide which anomalies have the potential to be ordnance and those anomalies are

selected for excavation.

7. Is it possible that a resident could find an explosive or chemical munition on their property in the future?

Burials of multiple items have been found in very specific locations within the project area, but from 1993 to today, no single intact munition containing explosives or chemical agents has been found on a residential property. The only other documented find of a single round containing chemical or explosives was in a suspected range fan on the federal property.

8. Is it true the round was disposed of even though the project team wanted to further evaluate the munition?

Yes, it is true that the Corps asked to retain the round for further analysis. It is possible this closer assessment may have given insight into the type of AUES testing conducted with that type of round. However, safety is the highest priority for

the Army and EOD was unable to give the round to us because they have very stringent safety protocols regarding emergency responses addressing recovered ordnance.

9. Are process changes being made if this happens again?

At this point the Partners are going to look closer at the geophysical data from the property where the item was found to ensure everything reasonable was done in assessing the data and selecting anomalies for excavation. Additionally, the Corps is exploring the possibility of signing a memorandum of agreement with local military EOD agencies so the Corps can assume possession of future items recovered.

If you have any different or follow-up questions you would like to ask, please do not hesitate to call the community outreach team at 410-962-0157.



Department of the Army
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Baltimore District
 P.O. Box 1715
 Baltimore, MD 21203-1715



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 Geophysics on 10-15 res. properties Intrusive invest. on 5-10 res. properties New AOI invest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4835 Glenbrook Geophysics on 5 residential properties Intrusive invest. on 5 res. properties Geophysics Dalecarlia Woods/Impact Area New AOI investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalecarlia Woods intrusive investigation Geophysics 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

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