



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

November 2000

Soil removal at Glenbrook site to begin in December

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

The soil removal work at the Glenbrook Road site originally scheduled to begin in October has been delayed until December.

This scheduling change is needed in order to reduce the time between the completion of the soil removal and the availability of a rough grading plan, which is required to complete the backfill operation on the property.

We estimate the soil removal and backfill work will take approximately seven weeks to complete.

Earlier testing of the soil on

the Glenbrook Road site indicated that the area near the pit excavations contains elevated levels of arsenic.

Using these results, we completed a comprehensive risk assessment of the site as well as evaluated possible alternatives designed to clean up these areas, technical experts recommended removing the top two feet of soil from the affected areas on the property and replacing it with new soil.

Although the elevated arsenic levels are confined primarily to the area of the pit excavations, we felt that it would be prudent to conduct additional soil sam-

pling at several properties near the Glenbrook Road site. We've gathered soil samples from 42 properties and a portion of American University. We've received final results on 14 of the properties and preliminary results on 18 of the properties.

We will begin notifying property owners of the results over the next several weeks. We will also prepare a final report that will summarize all the sampling results.

Property owners who might have questions about this latest sampling effort can call me at 410-962-6784 or the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988.

Small disposal area work rescheduled for January

In the last newsletter, it was mentioned that the Corps would resume in November its investigation and clean up of a small disposal area adjacent to American University, identified last year while experts worked at the Glenbrook Road site.

Ordnance experts began the cleanup of this area in January 2000, but had to suspend work due to bad weather. Work resumed in March. While in this area, workers uncovered several large ceramic pieces, which were containerized in plastic.

Air samples at the site indicated trace amounts of industrial chemicals. Although these compounds were not chemical warfare agents, they do interfere with the on-site monitoring equipment.

For this reason, work stopped at this site until a new plan could be developed to address this situation.

The plan is finished, and the the clean up of this small disposal area is scheduled to resume in January 2001.

This new plan will involve a

limited, daytime evacuation of a few residents living next to the area as well as the closure of a portion of Rockwood Parkway near the American University campus. Affected property owners have been notified and coordination has begun.

For more information or questions on the work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line or check the Spring Valley website at:

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



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