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The Corps'pondent

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

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Corps to conduct follow-up investigation

by Col. Bruce Berwick
Commander &
District Engineer

As commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, I wish to continue our tradition of keeping you informed about our activities in the Spring Valley neighborhood.

In late February or early March 1999, we plan to conduct a follow-up investigation to identify and remove, if necessary, any remnants of past defense activities at a property on Glenbrook Road in the Spring Valley neighborhood.

This investigation is based on a request by the District of Columbia government to review the methodology used during our investigation of the Spring Valley neighborhood from 1993 to 1995.

During that review,

we determined that the Glenbrook Road property required a follow-up investigation. We conducted a geophysical survey of the Glenbrook property earlier this year to detect any disturbances in the soil or the presence of metal objects. Data from this survey indicated that two suspect areas on the Glenbrook Road property should be further investigated.

We're currently coordinating this proposed on-site investigation with the owner of the property, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Government.

This investigation will specifically determine whether additional chemical warfare materials, breakdown products and/or potential laboratory contaminants, such as

containers of mustard gas, exist at this single site where, from 1917 to 1920 the American University Experiment Station, which later became the Chemical Warfare Service, was located.

Here, military personnel conducted research on and performed small-scale field testing of chemical warfare items.

Throughout our proposed investigation, we will take every possible step to ensure the safety and health of residents of Spring Valley. In the meantime, I want to stress that this area poses no threat to public health while it remains undisturbed.

The residents of the property have been most cooperative, and have agreed to take extra precautions not to disturb the area.



Col. Bruce A. Berwick

We estimate this investigation will take about eight weeks.

During the work, community residents will be invited to attend periodic meetings and will receive information explaining any findings and the progress of the investigation.

As with our past work, we are committed to conducting this investigation thoroughly in the safest way possible and maintaining normalcy in the community.

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