



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.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

The Corps' pondent

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

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

September
2005

Update: Work on several projects continues

Story by Gary Schilling, Program Manager
Photos courtesy of Parsons

Residential anomalies

The investigations scheduled for the summer were completed as of Aug. 12. Parsons, the contractor, found 23 pieces of munitions debris on four of the nine properties.

Typical munitions-related items recovered were fuzes and metal ordnance fragments. A dirt-filled, 4.7-inch projectile body was also found.

Examples of the non-munitions items discovered included a piece of pipe, several metallic rocks, wire, nails, a small barrel, a shovel part and asphalt pieces.

No chemical warfare materiel was detected in any of the soil and grab samples taken during the investigation.

Soil removal

Removal of arsenic affected soil from Spring Valley properties continues. A total of 40 properties have now been

cleaned and restored. Work on the 41st property has begun.

The project schedule reflects the plan to have all the residential properties completed by September 2008 and the federal property completed in 2009.

Phytoremediation

The 9,910 ferns that were planted on 11 properties in May are doing well.

Update continued on p. 3



This dirt-filled, 4.7-inch projectile body was recovered during the summer's residential anomalies investigations.

First round groundwater sampling done, elevation data announced

Elevation data from the first round of sampling for the Spring Valley groundwater study indicates that the groundwater beneath the area where wells have been installed is generally flowing west toward the Potomac River and the Dalecarlia Reservoir, an important component of the local drinking water system. The information was released jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of Health Sept. 8.

This groundwater elevation data provides the first significant snapshot of groundwater movement beneath the Spring Valley project area, answering the first investigative question as to whether groundwater flows toward the Dalecarlia Reservoir and the Potomac River. It is not yet known whether the groundwater flows into or out of the reservoir and

whether there is contamination in the groundwater, officials said. Addressing these important questions will be done as more data become available in the weeks and months ahead.

The Corps, EPA and D.C. Health, the three partnering agencies working to investigate and clean up Spring Valley, will next examine the groundwater chemical analysis data that is due later this month. The partnership will then use both the elevation and analytical data from this first round of sampling to identify the next steps for this multi-season groundwater study.

This initial groundwater sampling is the beginning of the study to assess whether World War I era activities at the Army's former American University Experiment Station have affected the

Groundwater continued on p. 3

Corps ends attempt to use air-frame tent at Lot 18

Story by Mary Beth Thompson,
Public Affairs Specialist
Photos courtesy of Parsons

The Corps of Engineers decided Aug. 15 to end attempts to set up and use an air-frame tent for the investigation of the debris field at Lot 18 in the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. The white inflatable tent has been removed from the site. The dig is being conducted under a blue 60- by 100-foot metal frame tent.

The inflatable tent, which consisted of joined air cells, arrived at the site in July. The Corps had planned to move into it in August, but design flaws were encountered.

Problems with critical seams caused the tent to deflate. Several attempts to erect and repair it were made by the project team and the manufacturer to no avail.

"The air-inflatable tent would have been lighter in weight and more maneuverable," said Craig Georg, project manager. "Using such a tent would have been an innovative solution to some of the challenges of Lot 18 — more adaptable to critical tent locations where the terrain is uneven.

"But, worker safety and the tent's ability to protect the public in the event of an accident are our primary concerns, making use of the tent not pos-

sible," Georg said.

Digging at Lot 18 restarted Sept. 2 and is scheduled for completion in January 2006. The team is evaluating the decision's effects on the schedule.

"The tent was one element among several elements we are employing to increase productivity and speed the progress of the investigation," said Gary Schilling, the Spring Valley program manager.

"While the air-inflatable tent provided some time efficiencies that will not be realized, we are optimistic the investigation can stay on schedule, barring the discovery of particularly significant or complicated items to be removed," Schilling said. "Design changes that have increased efficiencies are working in our favor to help maintain the schedule."

Those improvements include a larger excavator, a shaker table, a soil conveyor system and bulk roll-off containers.

Lot 18 is located near the southwestern edge of the American University campus and behind several Rockwood Parkway residential properties.



Air-frame tent seams are patched, but the effort would prove unsuccessful.



The inflatable tent, which was intended to provide a lighter and more maneuverable engineering control structure for the dig, is set up at Lot 18 but later collapses when certain cells fail to retain air.



Digging at Lot 18 continues inside the 60- by 100-foot metal-frame tent.

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.

Restoration Advisory Board meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal Church,
Macomb Street; Community session
6:30 to 7 p.m. with the Corps of
Engineers, EPA and D.C. Health

Update *continued from p. 1*

Contractor Edenspace monitors, waters and maintains the plots.

The above-ground parts of the ferns will be harvested in the fall. The plant material and soil samples will be analyzed to learn how much arsenic was removed from the soil.

This information, along with last year's results, will help determine whether phytoremediation can be a viable tool in removing arsenic from Spring Valley soil.

Groundwater investigation

Installation of 23 out of 30 groundwater monitoring wells had been completed in early August when the first round of sampling took place. See the page 1 article.

Lot 18

Digging continues at Lot 18 under the metal-frame tent, which was repositioned to



This piece from a shovel is an example of the non-munitions items found during residential anomaly digs this summer.

cover new grids. The story is on page 2.

Community survey

Thanks to those who took the time to fill out and mail a survey, completed forms have poured into the Corps' Baltimore office. It is not too late to send one in.

Over the next two months, the survey results will be analyzed, digested and used to update the Spring Valley Community Relations Plan. The results

will be presented to the Restoration Advisory Board.

One item that several responders asked for is a general project schedule. The project lifecycle schedule is included on page 4 of this issue. It is also posted and periodically updated on the Spring Valley web site www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley/Other/Lifecycle.pdf.

Briefings

The new commander of the Corps' North Atlantic Division, which oversees the Baltimore District, visited Spring Valley Aug. 24. Baltimore District Commander Col. Robert J. Davis and the project team briefed Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli and gave him a tour.

A Spring Valley orientation was given Aug. 30 for new Restoration Advisory Board members. The Environmental Protection Agency participated and offered its perspective.

Groundwater *continued from p. 1*

local groundwater and could potentially pose a risk to the reservoir water.

The drinking water system is tested extensively and has consistently been shown to be safe.

The elevation data were collected in August from 23 monitoring wells, the reservoir, creeks in the area and other locations, most of them between Dalecarlia Parkway and the reservoir.

Elevation data is collected by measuring the groundwater's height in feet above mean sea level. Groundwater generally flows from higher elevations to lower elevations, just as surface water does.

The groundwater samples

are being analyzed for up to 165 separate chemicals and compounds selected by the three agencies and believed to have been used at the experiment station. The partnership will release the analytical results after the data has been reviewed and fully validated.

Thirty monitoring wells are planned for this phase of the study. Installation of the remaining wells, including three background wells, is awaiting required permits or rights of entry.

The background wells will establish a baseline for conditions outside the project area. This baseline data will help the partners evaluate whether any contaminants that may be

present are the result of Army-related activities.

Data from this first round will begin to shed light on three questions: a) What is the direction of the groundwater flow? b) Are there contaminants of concern in the groundwater? and c) If there are contaminants and the groundwater is flowing toward the Dalecarlia Reservoir, is there a potential influence on the reservoir?

The next steps in the groundwater investigation will be decided after review of the first round data by the partners.

(Information for this article came from news releases issued jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of Health.)



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Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

Project Lifecycle Schedule

This 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. Each task may end up taking more or less time than is currently allocated on this schedule.

	Fiscal Year '05 Oct. 1, 2004 – Sept. 30, 2005	Fiscal Year '06 Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 30, 2006	Fiscal Year '07 Oct. 1, 2006 – Sept. 30, 2007	Fiscal Year '08 Oct. 1, 2007 – Sept. 30, 2008	Fiscal Year '09 Oct. 1, 2008 – Sept. 30, 2009	Fiscal Year '10 Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010
MMRP Military Munitions Response Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lot 18 Geophysics on 9 residential properties Intrusive investigation on 9 residential properties 	<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 10-15 res. properties Intrusive invest. 5-10 res. properties New AOI invest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4835 Glenbrook Geophysics on 5 res. properties Intrusive invest. 5 res. properties Geophysics Dalecarlia Woods/ Impact Area New AOI invest. 	<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 – install 30 wells and sample Phytoremediation study Soil sampling 	<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 Phytoremediation RI/FS Report** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RI/FS Report finalization Joint project close-out

* Geophysical surveying of additional 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 schedule at that time.

The Corps'pondent

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