



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

Vol. 1, No. 7

September 1999

Another temporary shutdown causes schedule change

by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer

Last month we had another temporary halt in our excavation work at the first anomalous area on Glenbrook Road.

Because of this most recent work stoppage and the previous delay caused by the fire which I mentioned in the August issue of the *Corps'pondent*, our scheduled completion date for the project has been moved to early next year.

On Aug. 24, while assessing a 75mm round for final disposal, the ordnance contractor noticed a solvent-like odor coming from the item.

Our Huntsville, Ala., Corps employee also noticed it. Then, later that morning after the contractor complained of feeling lightheaded, both men were evaluated by the onsite medics and then transported to George Washington Hospital for further evaluation.

Although tests revealed irregular heartbeats for both men, doctors do not believe this was related to the inhalation of vapors.

The contractor was released the same day and the Corps

employee the following day.

Air sampling of the item on Aug. 24 indicated mustard agent on the round, but an analysis of perimeter sampling at the site indicated no mustard agent.

All intrusive work was suspended at the site beginning Aug. 24 until 31 while the safety procedures for classifying munitions recovered as scrap were reviewed and modified.

The final conclusion from the review of the procedures was that the 75-mm round contained trace amounts of mustard or mustard contaminated soil in the burster tube portion of the round.

Apparently, some barrier prevented all but a very minute quantity of the mustard vapors from escaping during previous air sampling of the round.

The contractor loosened that barrier with a probe and allowed access to those contaminants.

Two changes were recommended in the current procedures to improve the safety at the site:

- Any chemical agent detected during air sampling of

any rounds will be reported even if it is below the reporting limit. There will be a review of all data to ensure that other items have not had detections below the reporting limit.

- All items transported to the interim holding facility that are evaluated as scrap will remain at the federal property site. Air sampling and any decontamination required will be performed onsite along with storage. Final clearance assessment of these munitions will be done at the federal property site, not the Glenbrook Road site.

These changes are now in effect.

Intrusive work

began again on Sept. 1. in an expanded area of the same pit. We expect to be finished in this area next month. We will then move the vapor containment structure and continue with the excavation.

For more information on our work activities, you may call the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988. Please feel free to call me at the project office on the federal property weekdays from 8 to 4:30 p.m. at 202-686-3359.



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

Official Business

PRE-SORTED
 FIRST CLASS MAIL
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 MAIL ADVERTISING
 SERVICES, INC
 20850

Status of Work

as of Sept. 1, 1999

The size of pit is 13 feet x 23 feet, with a depth from 9 feet to 12 feet.

- Total items recovered to date are 375.
 - Ordnance items = 227
 - Cylinders = 38
 - Glass containers = 32
 - Metal drums = 13
 - Wooden training aids = 22
 - Miscellaneous = 43
- Of the recovered items, 271 were determined to be scrap.
- Of the remaining 104 items, 48 have been reviewed and evaluated for disposal by the Munitions Assessment Review Board, or MARB.
 - One cylinder contained chemical agent.
 - To date, 56 items remain for analysis and evaluation for proper disposal.

Please note...

The Baltimore District website has a new look. Your bookmark for the Spring Valley address no longer functions.

To access the Spring Valley project page, go to:
<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/dcprojects8.htm>

To access the daily update page for the project, go to:
<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>

Information about the 1995 Spring Valley project and the current work is available at the Palisades Public Library, 49th and V St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

For further information about this project, residents may call the Public Affairs Office at 410-962-2809 or toll-free at 1-800-434-0988.

The Corps'pondent

The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-81 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 (1-800-434-0988). It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 1,400. 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.

Homepage: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/dcprojects8.htm>

Baltimore Commander & District Engineer **Col. Bruce Berwick**
Deputy District Engineer, Spring Valley **Maj. Brian Plaisted**
Public Affairs Chief **Lucy Lather**
Public Affairs Specialist **Doug Garman**