

**Questions for the Army Corps from Charlie Bermpohl, NW Current
August 17, 2004
To: Mary Beth Thompson
At: Fax: 410-962-3660**

Responses from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are placed below the questions
August 23, 2004

Note: there were originally five questions asked. In a phone conversation August 18, Charlie Bermpohl removed three of the questions.

1. What federal legislation authorizes the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board>

Answer:

The basis and authority for a Restoration Advisory Board derive from the part of 10 USC 2705(d) that establishes the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

2. There never seems to be much enthusiasm on the part of the Corps to get those records out of Fort Leonard Wood. Is it because the Corps doesn't believe there's anything valuable in them concerning the search for CWM in Spring Valley?

Answer:

On the contrary, the Corps and others have spent months thoroughly combing those records and have found useful pieces of information.

The Corps' decision against using project funds to move or copy and move those records is based on several factors. First, the records belong to the Chemical Warfare School; the school uses the records and is unlikely to give them up. Second, the records are classified, and they are secure at their present location; it is implausible that the school would give permission to move them or copy and move the copies in the present terrorist threat environment. Third, the records have been thoroughly reviewed by experts; we believe that all the useful information that can be gleaned from them has been obtained. Fourth, the records are accessible at their present location; if the partners decide the experts should see them again, it is easy and inexpensive to send them to Fort Leonard Wood to do so. Fifth, even in the improbable event that the Chemical Warfare School would agree to let us move the documents or copy them and move the copies, the prohibitive cost would have to be paid out of Spring Valley program funds; higher priority work would have to be delayed to pay for it, which is unjustifiable. Sixth, the records would remain classified wherever they were located; a secret clearance would be required to see them; the net result would be that access to these records would still be unavailable to the general community.