



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps of Engineers finds small amount of a chemical agent at Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

BALTIMORE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District has temporarily suspended its investigation of Pit 3, located at 4825 Glenbrook Road at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site in northwest Washington, D.C., as a result of the discovery of an intact, open flask.

The Corps suspended its investigation and sealed Pit 3 after the flask was discovered Aug. 4. Air monitors at Pit 3 did not indicate a presence of chemical agents, however, the glass flask contained a small amount of an unknown, solid material.

Following established procedures, workers secured the flask and took it to the federal property adjacent to the Washington Aqueduct. The Army's Technical Escort Unit (TEU) took the flask to Edgewood Arsenal, in Maryland, for analysis on Aug. 5. On Aug. 10, the Corps received confirmation that the material in the flask tested positive for the chemical agent mustard. The discovery, transport and analysis of the flask posed no danger to the public.



The Corps is evaluating whether additional safety measures are required before resuming the investigation of Pit 3. The discovery did not impact other ongoing Corps efforts at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

During the World War I era, the U.S. Army developed and tested chemical weapons on a rural tract then known as the American University Experiment Station. The northwestern Washington, D.C., neighborhood was later developed and became known as Spring Valley.

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