



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203

(410) 962-2809

Fax: (410) 962-3660

News Release

Release No. 01-01a

Contact: Doug Garman

For Release: January 3, 2001

Phone: (410) 962-2809

Corps of Engineers to hold media day at Spring Valley, January 5

Baltimore - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, will hold a media day **Friday, January 5 at 11 a.m.**, to discuss the resumption of its cleanup of a small disposal area near American University. This site was identified last year during the Corps' cleanup of World War I materials at the Glenbrook Road property in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

At the media day, Corps representatives involved in the cleanup will explain the upcoming work activities and answer questions. Those planning to attend the media day should report to the parking lot between the Kreeger and Watkins buildings on the American University campus. This will be the only opportunity to photograph or videotape the work area.

Last January, the Corps conducted a surface cleanup of the small disposal area located along Rockwood Parkway and adjacent to American University. Workers removed soil, along with metal and glass debris, from about 75 percent of the site. The soil and debris were tested and no chemical warfare materials were found. In March, workers uncovered several large ceramic pieces, placed them in plastic containers and collected air samples. Results of the air sampling indicated trace amounts of three industrial chemicals. Because these chemicals interfered with on-site air monitoring equipment, work stopped until a new cleanup plan could be developed.

From January 8-11, the Corps will resume its cleanup of this area. Soil and any significant debris will be removed and tested. As a safety precaution during this work, arrangements have been made with residents of five neighboring houses to leave their homes during the planned daytime work. Arrangements have also been made with officials at American University to close a small portion of the campus. In addition, Rockwood Parkway will be closed to motorists between American University and Glenbrook Road from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. during each of the four days of work. Motorists are advised to use Loughboro Road to Indian Lane as an alternate route.

In other work in the Spring Valley neighborhood, the Corps is continuing its soil removal activities at the Glenbrook Road site. Surface soil containing elevated levels of arsenic is being removed and replaced with new soil. This work will likely be finished in a few weeks.

Historical records indicate that portions of the Spring Valley neighborhood were once used by military personnel assigned to the former American University Experiment Station from 1917 to 1919, to conduct research and testing of World War I chemical warfare materials.

- 30 -