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Media Advisory

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Media invited to tour Spring Valley Lot 18

Baltimore – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Spring Valley project delivery team will conduct a tour of the Lot 18 dig site for members of the media Friday, June 18 at 10 a.m. An overview of the Lot 18 investigation will be followed by a visit inside the engineering control structure, an airtight tent that will cover the excavation, and include an opportunity to view the various types of equipment that will be used. Experts will be available to answer questions.

Lot 18 is located on the southeastern edge of the American University campus adjacent to properties on Rockwood Parkway. The tour will start at 4621 Rockwood Parkway.

The Lot 18 dig is scheduled to resume June 21 and may take 10 to 12 months to complete. For safety reasons, after the dig begins, only workers will be allowed inside the tent.

The excavation at Lot 18 is part of the ongoing investigation and cleanup of the former WWI experiment station that is today the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The project team believes there is a possibility that chemical warfare agent may be found amid the trash and debris buried at Lot 18.

A small amount of lewisite, a WWI chemical warfare agent, was found in a sealed glass container recovered from Lot 18 in 2003. Laboratory analysis of the contents in the glass container conducted by the Edgewood Chemical Biological Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., confirmed the presence of a solution containing approximately 0.3 percent lewisite.

Because of the potential of finding chemical warfare agent, the Corps is taking extensive safety precautions to protect workers and those who live and work near Lot 18. These safety precautions will be discussed during the media tour.

Media representatives who plan to attend the tour should call 410-962-2809, Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs. Shoes for uneven terrain are suggested. **Press credentials will be required.