

A newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Spring Valley Project area residents

Army Corps working with Partners on Groundwater

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is continuing efforts to finalize an approach to groundwater in the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site in coordination with regulatory Partners, including the EPA and the DC Department of Energy and Environment.

Based on groundwater monitoring throughout the FUDS, two well locations indicated levels of arsenic or perchlorate slightly above EPA drinking water standards. The groundwater in Spring Valley is not used as a source for drinking water, and as such the Army and the regulatory partners differ on a path forward.

The Army's preferred remedy would be some form of land use control with continued monitoring based on the lack of an existing way for the public to be exposed to the groundwater since it is not a drinking water source.

Based on DOEE and the EPA policies to achieve drinking water standards in groundwater regardless of current or expected future use, they do not concur with the Army's approach. Coordination continues, including the initiation of a formal dispute resolution process between the Army Corps and DOEE.

For more info on groundwater:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/home/ SpringValley/Groundwater

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'Education and Awareness' letters to be mailed to all homes in Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

E nsuring the community remains informed about the past military use of the area encompassed by the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site is part of the overall Site-Wide recommendations developed to reduce risks to members of the community.

That means that in addition to the cleanup activities, like removal of contaminated soils and investigations to find and remove potential buried munitions, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will also promote munition education and awareness in order to further reduce risks in the event a munition item is encountered.

This will be through letters and brochures sent to all residents and institutions within the boundary of the Spring Valley FUDS once a year. They will include information about the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat and Report) of explosives safety. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is carrying out extensive cleanup activities, there is no



Residents within the boundary of the Spring Valley FUDS will receive a munitions safety education and awareness letter and brochure, featuring the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat and Report) at least once a year as part of longterm efforts to continue to reduce risks to the public from past military use of the area.

way to be 100 percent certain that all buried munitions items from the WWI era are removed, so these letters and brochures serve as a way to reduce risk in the unlikely event that members of the community do encounter items in the future.

PLEASE NOTE: These letters and brochures do not indicate that any new concerns have been identified, but rather they are a part of the Army's ongoing commitment to reducing risks to the community.

Site-Wide munitions cleanup underway

rews working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue to make progress on the first properties that are part of ongoing munitions cleanup efforts. The properties were specifically identified for further investigation to mitigate potential unacceptable explosive hazards due to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) that may remain within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

This effort includes 91 out of the roughly 1,600 Spring Valley properties and 12 government-owned lots. All property owners involved in this effort have been notified during the planning process for this effort.

While there are no known munitions hazards on these properties, this work is being done, as always, out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety of residents and community members.

The work at the properties, part of what is called the Site-Wide Remedial Action, involves working closely with property owners to coordinate for crews to survey accessible portions of their lots for buried metallic anomalies.

The team has received Rights-of-Entry, essentially permission to do work on a (Site-Wide on page 2)

AU Public Safety Building slab cleanup slated for early 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects to remove the foundation of American University's former Public Safety Building as early as January as part of Site-Wide Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site cleanup efforts.

AU tore down the aged building last year and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team is preparing to remove the building foundation. This is in order to safely remove any potential contamination associated with the former American University Experiment Station that may remain under the foundation now that the building is gone.

As part of site preparation prior to removing the foundation slab, the team shut off gas lines adjacent to

the slab and provided an alternate source of heat for nearby campus buildings served by the line. With that effort complete, crews arespendingtheremainder of the year finishing site preparation and anticipate beginning to remove the slab in January, followed by excavating potentially contaminated soils below.

nearby community can expect disturbances similar normal construction to

activities in the area; including a fenced off area with restricted access and some noise associated with heavy equipment. All work plans and safety



Representatives of the DC Department of Energy and During this work, the Environment and a contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discuss the removal of the concrete slab below where the former American University Public Safety *Building stood during a site visit.*

procedures are reviewed by internal Army experts, as well as our regulatory Partners. Safety remains the number one priority for the Army Corps.

(Site-Wide continued from page 1)



Contractors use the Manned Portable Vector to further examine buried metallic anomalies identifed during geophysical surveys along Dalecarlia Parkway. The MPV equipment is able to determine whether buried metallic anomalies are munitions items or cultural debris.

property, from 33 residential properties that comprise the first wave of homes. Of those 33 properties, nearly all have had property and landscaping surveys done. These measures are initial preparations for crews to perform geophysical surveys of the property to identify buried metallic anomalies that could be explosive hazards dating back to military use of the area during World War I.

Geophysical surveys have begun at some of the 33 private properties as well as at municipal and federally owned lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.

Crews are incorporating Advanced Geophysical Classification technology specifically developed for munition work, and using a state-of-the-art Manned Portable Vector (MPV) equipment, which is designed to allow

improved access in tight areas around residential properties. This allows for crews to identify metallic items buried underground as either munitions items to be removed or cultural debris such as horseshoes, cans or construction debris like nails that can be left in the ground.

Historically, this sort of work involves digging for most all metallic anomalies identified underground, meaning the vast majority of items dug up were cultural debris. This wastes time, money and results in greater impacts to properties. Being able to determine whether a buried object is a munitions item or not should help greatly reduce these false digs throughout this project.

It is important to note though that crews will err on the side of caution and will dig metallic anomalies should there be doubt.

Anyone interested in learning more about the above work or any other aspects of work going on in Spring Valley can contact the Spring Valley Community Outreach Team by calling 800-434-0988 or can find more about all of these efforts on our project website at:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/home/SpringValley

Excavation work resumes at 4825 Glenbrook Road

Crews resumed intrusive operations at the end of October 2018 at the Glenbrook Road project area. Work at the site had been paused for over a year due to an incident at the site in August 2017, when the crew on site experienced symptoms of potential exposure while working closely with the soils during hand digging excavation operations. The remaining cleanup effort includes the removal of soils primarily along the shared property line between 4825 and 4835 Glenbrook Road, plus a few other small areas at the 4825 Glenbrook Road site. The overall cleanup effort is expected to be completed by summer 2019.

Over the summer, the return to work plan was finalized in coordination with the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site interagency Partners, including the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment and the EPA. The final work plan was also presented at the Restoration Advisory Board meeting in early September. The return to work plan includes upgraded personal protective equipment for our workers, enhanced air monitoring protocols, and implementation of a temperature limit for work at the site (work will only be done at a temperature of 75 degrees or below to reduce the ability for chemicals to travel in air in the event of a release). Also, crews will conduct the excavation by mechanical means instead of hand digging which will minimize soil handling and exposure for the crew. This will also allow all excavated soils to be directly placed into drums, with a screening funnel, which will then be sealed on site.

These modifications are based on recommendations made by the Board of Investigation convened to further assess last year's incident that led to the pause in work at the site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our regulatory Partners all agreed that the return to work approach is a safe approach that will allow the team to efficiently remove the remaining soils on site in a timely fashion and minimize impact to the community.

If crews encounter an intact container and/or a



Crews fill drums with soil from 4825 Glenbrook Road after low probability work resumed there in late October. Part of the updated work plan includes upgraded personal protective equipment for crews working with soils, enhanced air monitoring protocols and using excavators to fill drums to reduce direct handling of soils for the crew. All of these are visibile in the above image.

munition item, work would be stopped and the team would have additional discussions on the path forward.

During the site shutdown, the team performed site maintenance work. Additionally, the team did some limited soil removal operations to remove additional remaining arsenic in areas on the property where soils had already been removed. The arsenic-contaminated soils had been detected during previous intrusive operations, as contaminated soil was removed. Crews also backfilled each completed grid area with clean soil in preparation for the final site restoration when the overall project is complete.

Early in the fall, the team prepared for the return to work by preparing all the personal protective equipment, conducting refresher safety training as well as installing new equipment, structures and air monitoring devices. The soil excavation then began with removal of the clean soil that had been placed over the area where the exposure incident took place, then the stockpile of soils from the time of the incident, then moved to excavation along the 4825/4835 Glenbrook Road shared property line.

The site has returned to working Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. Heavy equipment operations will not begin until after 7:00am.

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* To be added to our email list please email Rebecca Yahiel with the Community Outreach Team at rebecca.e.yahiel@usace.army.mil. *

Spring Valley Website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley

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Restoration Advisory Board welcomes and farewells

The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board has had recent changes and we'd like to thank those who have served on the RAB while also welcoming the new members.

The RAB welcomed a new community member at the September meeting - Mary Kathryn Covert Steel.

American University has named Andrew Huff to be their representative on the RAB going forward. The DC Department of Energy and Environment has named Dave Tomlinson to be its representative on the RAB going forward.

Peter DeFur, who had been the RAB's technical consultant through the Department of Defense's Technical Assistance for Public Participation, or TAPP, program for the past 16 years retired after the September RAB. The RAB decided to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to contract a new TAPP consultant and that process will take place in 2019.

You can find more about the RAB, including how to contact members and learn more about participation, by visiting the RAB section of the Spring Valley website at:

http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Community-Participation/

The RAB is comprised primarily of Spring Valley community members, but also includes officials involved in the project, and acts in an advisory capacity to assist the government agencies engaged in the investigation and cleanup of the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision making process.

The RAB meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every odd month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, NW. Meetings are open to the public.

2019 RAB Schedule:		
January 8	May 14	September 10
March 12	July 8	November 12