US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

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

April 2013~ Vol. 14, No. 1

http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx

The Corps' mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.

Work progresses at 4825 Glenbrook Road

Crews excavate the last test pit in the back of 4825 Glenbrook Road as part of the initial low probability work.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the initial low probability excavations at 4825 Glenbrook Road March 5. No American University Experiment Station **(AUES)** debris or visual signs of contamination were found. Additionally, there was no air monitoring detections of any chemicals of concern. Confirmation soil sampling from the front yard also indicated no contamination hazards.

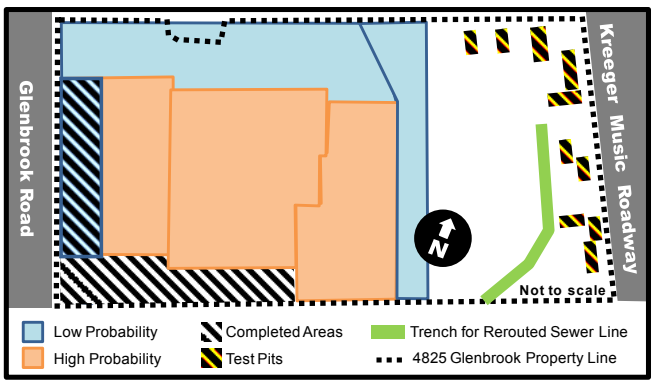
During the low probability work, crews excavated the front yard sidewalk area adjacent to Glenbrook Road. They also investigated 10 test pits in the back yard of the property. All of the areas were dug to competent saprolite, bedrock, or the reach of the equipment to ensure a thorough investigation. By reaching competent saprolite, or bedrock, the Corps of Engineers made sure crews excavated all potentially disturbed soil and reached depths beyond potential World War I activities.

After the crews finished the test pits, they began preparing the site for high probability excavations, which will take place in the areas of the property where historical and field data indicate a greater likelihood of containing AUES-related debris and/or glassware items containing chemical agent. High probability work is scheduled to start this Summer.

The Corps of Engineers will continue to use approved safety protocols to substantially reduce the risk to the community. In addition to the perimeter and work zone air monitoring used during the low probability work, the Corps of Engineers will use a large (60 feet by 82.5 feet) Engineering Control Structure **(ECS)** with a Chemical Agent Filtration System **(CAFS)** during the high probability work. The ECS will fully enclose the excavation. The CAFS keeps the ECS under negative pressure by continuously pulling, filtering and cleaning all the air leaving the control structure.

The Corps of Engineers plans to use acoustical enclosures and outlet silencers designed to control the noise from the CAFS. All engineering control devices will only run while work is being performed at the site to minimize disturbance to the surrounding neighbors.

Combined, the ECS and the CAFS are designed to control any potential chemical release that may occur as site personnel perform the work. In the unlikely event of a chemical detection, the source will be identified and contained by the ECS and the CAFS. In accordance with procedure, work crews will immediately investigate and mitigate the cause of the detection.



Test Pit locations at 4825 Glenbrook Road.

See Glenbrook page 2

Glenbrook continued from page 1

Overall Schedule:

- **February - March 2013:**
  - ✓*Initial low probability work completed*
    - Test pits in back yard
- **April - Summer 2013:**
  - *Site preparations underway*
    - Relocate water and sewer utilities
    - Install soldier piles to support embankments
  - *Engineering Control Structure set up*
- **Summer 2013 – Spring 2014:**
  - High probability excavation
- **Spring 2014:**
  - Final Low Probability Excavation
  - Site Restoration

These protective systems provide the Corps of Engineers with the tools necessary to detect potential hazardous materials and provide containment for potential releases. On top of these extensive protective measures, the team performing this work is highly trained, certified, and extremely experienced in the means and methods to safely remove and properly dispose of hazardous materials that may be encountered.

The comprehensive details that have gone into the planning for the 4825 Glenbrook Road project would not be possible without community involvement, including the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board and interagency partnerships with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III and the District Department of the Environment.

The Public Protection Plan **(PPP)** developed for the 4825 Glenbrook Road project provides added safety measures to support high probability operations at the site. The PPP supports the site work plan which outlines the maximum credible event **(MCE)**. The MCE wis determined by the Spring Valley Partners, (the US Army Corps of Engineers **(USACE)**, the Environmental Protection Agency **(EPA)** and the District Department of the Environment **(DDOE))**, and is used for contingency planning for the maximum release of a chemical agent, that while unlikely, could occur as a result of an unintended, unplanned, or accidental incident. The MCE for this activity is the evaporative release of one liter of arsenic trichloride over a one-hour period. If there were no engineering controls in place, the Temporary Emergency Exposure Limit distance for this MCE would be 194 feet, which impacts eight residents and Watkins Hall on American University **(AU)**. If warranted, due to the highly improbable failure of the ECS and CAFS at the same time there is a release, the Corps of Engineers will implement another precautionary measure for both the workers and neighbors within 194 feet: a Shelter-in-Place alert and notification system.

The PPP focuses on the Corps of Engineers prepared reaction to an unintended event that is not contained by the engineering controls. Advanced planning and training, tight coordination and rapid communication with District of Columbia emergency responders, including the Metropolitan Police District 2, are part of these preplanned reactions. Additionally, the Corps of Engineers coordinates all project safety plans and establishes communication plans with affected residents and nearby schools prior to and during operations.

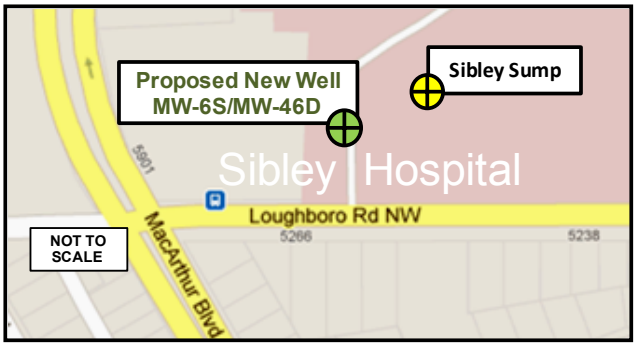
The Corps of Engineers has conducted a total of 14 major removal operations throughout the two decade life of the Spring Valley project with no harmful exposure to the community. Even though the Corps of Engineers has encountered AUES materials during these operations, there has been no documented release of concern to the community.

Groundwater study continues with new wells

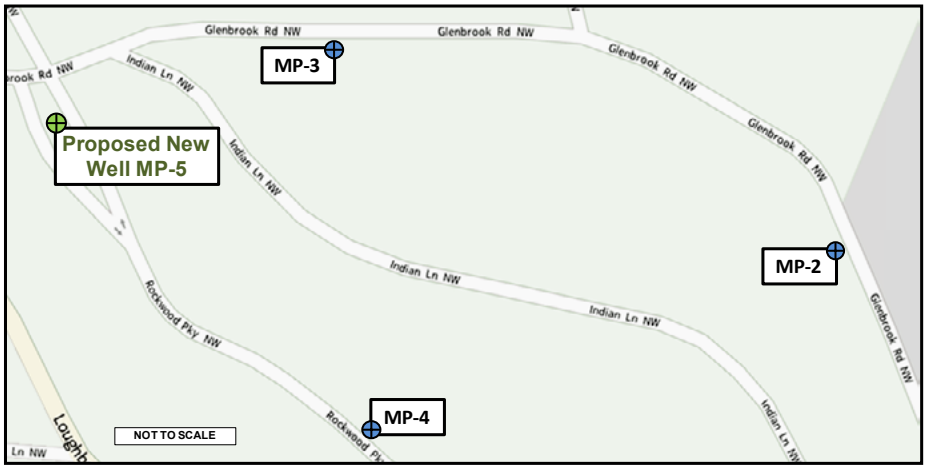
Early in 2013, the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Groundwater Partners (USACE, EPA and DDOE), held a conference call to follow up on their review of the 2012 sampling results and determine the scope of 2013 groundwater sampling, and discuss two proposed new well locations, and to install two additional monitoring wells. The Partners decided to monitor specific existing wells and surface water locations for arsenic and perchlorate in the spring and fall of 2013.

By the end of April the Corps of Engineers will have sampled the 20 existing groundwater monitoring wells and 10 surface water locations of interest to the Partners. These results from April 2013 are expected to be reported this summer and will be followed by the fall sampling event in September.

During the conference call they also decided to add two new deep wells to obtain additional information on the extent of perchlorate and arsenic in groundwater.



The first new well will be a multiport well (MP-5) along Rockwood Parkway to further evaluate if there is any connection between the AU perchlorate plume and the plume detected in the vicinity of Sibley Hospital. This new, deep well will be down-gradient of the deep well on Glenbrook Road (MP-2). The second new well will be placed at Sibley Hospital and will provide information on the depth of perchlorate in groundwater in this area.



Perchlorate has been detected above drinking water advisory levels in the AU/Glenbrook Road project area and in the vicinity of Sibley Hospital. Arsenic has been detected above the drinking water standard in the Glenbrook Road project area. Groundwater in Spring Valley is not used as a drinking water source, but for comparison purposes, groundwater contaminant concentrations are compared to drinking water standards and advisories established by EPA.

The Glenbrook Road project area is the probable source that has caused the groundwater arsenic concentrations to approach or exceed the arsenic drinking water standard at the wells located immediately adjacent and down gradient. Arsenic concentrations in these wells decreased noticeably over time, after the Glenbrook Road area had undergone various cleanup efforts. Sampling data shows that additionally, the past seven years of elevated arsenic concentrations do not extend to the monitoring wells down-gradient, indicating that the arsenic impacted groundwater is not widespread.

Extensive investigations completed near the AU/Kreeger Hall suspected source area did not identify a definitive perchlorate source such as a buried perchlorate-containing item. However, the perchlorate concentrations in the AU/Kreeger Hall area have decreased from July 2006 through May 2011. The exact cause of the decrease in groundwater perchlorate concentrations is unknown but may relate to the various soil and debris removal activities conducted at AU during the 2003 to 2010 timeframe. Further monitoring of the existing wells at AU is necessary to confirm perchlorate depth and concentration findings.

Additionally, arsenic concentrations in groundwater at AU and Sibley Hospital at all monitoring locations have always been well below the arsenic maximum contaminant level **(MCL)** of 10 micrograms per liter (ug/l), indicating that arsenic in groundwater at these areas is not a concern.

Corps of Engineers requests your help

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting an investigation regarding the post-American University Experiment Station development of certain properties, focusing on 4825 Glenbrook Road, 4835 Glenbrook Road, and the Public Safety Building at 4400 Massachusetts Avenue.

The Corps of Engineers is seeking information regarding the development of these properties, and encourages those who have information about this matter to contact the investigation contractor, Watermark, Inc. at (866) 383-7327

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☞ Please Note:

New RAB Schedule

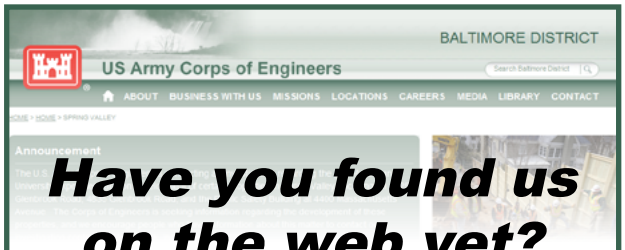
The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has decided to meet every other month. See the revised schedule below.

New 2013 Meeting Schedule:

May 14
July 9
September 10
November 12

Therefore, RAB meetings will now be held on the second Tuesday of every odd month at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church at 5150 Macomb Street NW.

The Corps will continue our outreach efforts to keep everyone informed. These include mailed copies of this Corps'pondent newsletter to all Spring Valley Project area residents, as well as providing our most interested stakeholders an electronic monthly project-wide progress summary, and the Glenbrook Road neighbors a weekly update. The Glenbrook Road neighborhood updates are drafted at the end of every Friday, and copies of each of these information resources are posted to our website as soon as they are available.



Have you found us on the web yet?

The new Spring Valley project website became available at the beginning of February. This change was part of a nationwide effort to establish a consistent look on all district websites. The new website address is:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx

The new website showcases new and recent project documents, while older project documents may be found on a dedicated SharePoint website.

If you have any questions about the new website or would like access to the SharePoint website, please contact:

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