

# The Corps'pondent



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

## Updates

Headquarters Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing the project's draft Remedial Investigation Report. Following Headquarters, and the state and federal review process, the report will be made available for a public comment period. We plan to host a public meeting in spring 2015 in conjunction with the review period.

In July, our field team sampled for arsenic in soil at two properties on the 3700 block of Fordham Road. The purpose was to evaluate whether the arsenic contamination present on a neighboring property extended beyond the property boundary. In fiscal year 2015, we plan to remove a small area of contaminated soil identified on one property.

The next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 18. The first RAB meeting of 2015 is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 13. The RAB meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every odd month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Meetings are open to the public.

This past summer DC Water sampled the soil for arsenic on Hillbrook Lane, as part of the design effort to upgrade the water main system in 2015. Arsenic was not detected in the soil samples. For more information please contact Susan MacNeil at: [susan.macneil@dcwater.com](mailto:susan.macneil@dcwater.com).

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[www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley)

## Excavation Under Tent Begins Again at New Location on Glenbrook Property

After several months of effort under the large tent at the front of 4825 Glenbrook Road, crews completed the excavation and remediation work under the first of three tent locations. On Aug. 1, an on-site Army Corps of Engineers geologist confirmed the excavation under the first tent had reached competent saprolite (weathered bedrock). Also, the final confirmation soil samples taken throughout the excavated area, all came back clean for chemical agent.

Following completion of the high probability work under the first tent location, crews focused on preparing the site for excavation under the second tent location. In August and September, preparations included backfilling the excavated front yard area, moving the support facilities and equipment, decontaminating the equipment and tent, and unlacing the Engineering Control Structure (ECS) tent's "skin."

Crews also performed some additional low probability excavations on the property behind the retaining wall. During this work, they recovered

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some American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related glass debris. All glassware tested clear of any AUES-related chemicals.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, seventeen trucks delivered sections of a very large crane that was then assembled at the American University parking lot overlooking the project site, near Watkins Hall. Following extensive load testing to demonstrate it could move the large sections of the ECS tent, the crane began work Oct. 3. Crews finished moving the ECS tent to its second location the week of Oct. 13.

Now that the ECS tent has been moved to the back end of the property, crews are completing the preparations required for high probability excavations to begin again Dec. 1. During the week of Oct. 27, crews finished securing the fabric on the ECS, ensuring a tight fit to maintain the negative pressure inside the tent. The field team is completing installation of the support functions that have been moved to the front yard area, which has been backfilled and stabilized with gravel. This front area now includes the personnel decontamination station, the redress tent and the medical monitoring shed.

The Glenbrook Road neighborhood Shelter-in-Place Siren System was tested Nov. 12 and 17, which allowed us to verify that the system is still working and also reminding participating residents about the Shelter-in-Place program. We plan to return to our regular monthly tests on Wednesday, Dec. 3, and the first Wednesday of every month throughout high probability operations.



The crane lifting a large section of the Engineering Control Structure (ECS) and moved it into its second location.



Bobby Nelms, Unexploded Ordnance safety officer for Parsons, provides a tour of the site to Steve Hirsh, EPA Region III, during the Oct. 21 Partners meeting.



This is a modified photo with a proposed redesign to the front fence at the Glenbrook Road project site. Since the front area is fully remediated, the team is evaluating options allowing the fence to be off of the street. This will better secure the property and improve appearances.



# Two New Wells Installed to Further Investigate Groundwater

*Editor's note: Spring Valley groundwater is not used as a drinking water source, but for comparison purposes, groundwater contaminant concentrations are compared to drinking water standards and advisory levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency.*

We installed two new deep wells in August. One new well was placed on Sibley Hospital property to provide information on the depth of perchlorate in groundwater in this area. This new nested well has two well screens that allow for sampling at two different

depths within the well. The other new well was placed in the road on Rockwood Parkway, near the tip of the Rockwood Parkway 'island.' This multi-port well will further evaluate if there is any connection between the American University perchlorate plume and the plume detected in the vicinity of Sibley Hospital. In addition, two rounds of sampling were performed over the last five months. Semiannual sampling was performed in June, and quarterly sampling was performed in September. Results from these continued sampling efforts were mainly consistent with past results.

Initial sampling results from the new well, with the shallow and deep screening levels, at Sibley Hospital showed perchlorate concentrations below the 15 parts per billion drinking water advisory level at the shallow depth, and no detection of perchlorate at the deep depth. We also tested for arsenic, and the results were below the drinking water standard for both well depths. This new nested well will continue to be sampled in 2015, as no conclusions can be made from one set of results. The new Rockwood Parkway well has not been sampled yet, as it required additional time to construct a well liner that includes five different sampling ports. The final liner and the sampling ports were installed in early November. We plan to sample this well in December.

We continue to discuss and work toward consensus on next steps for the groundwater investigation. On Oct. 21, we hosted a groundwater meeting with participation from the groundwater specialists at the Environmental Protection Agency Region III and the District Department of the Environment, our Partners. We will continue to work with our Partners to evaluate the groundwater sampling results and determine the scope of continued sampling events in 2015.

The Partners also began discussing the preliminary Groundwater Study Remedial Investigation (RI) report, which is in the beginning draft stage. This RI is being developed separately from the overall Spring Valley Site-Wide RI. The Groundwater RI report will provide a summary of the groundwater investigation to include a review of the data that has been collected and the analytical scope, and an evaluation of the sampling results to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

The groundwater RI evaluation will include a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). The HHRA establishes and evaluates Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC) and determines if there is any unacceptable risk associated with those COPCs using the groundwater monitoring results and the different potential pathways of groundwater exposure. If the HHRA does determine that any of the COPCs pose an unacceptable risk, a Feasibility Study will be performed to evaluate alternatives to address the unacceptable risk and identify Remedial Action objectives.



Crews installed a new groundwater monitoring well on the road off the tip of the Rockwood Parkway 'island' in August.



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## ***Community Relations Plan Updated***



Rebecca Yahiel, Spring Valley Community Outreach Team, discusses the project with a group of local realtors.

In an effort to enhance community relations through education and involvement of community members, the Community Relations Plan (CRP) is a tool that explains how we will engage the community and the public in the environmental investigation and cleanup process at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS).

The Spring Valley CRP is a living document and

has been routinely updated since 1998. This recent updated CRP includes information from community interviews completed in fall 2013, as well as an updated project history section and summaries about each of the environmental investigations within the Spring Valley FUDS. Additionally, the CRP identifies community concerns regarding the environmental investigation and cleanup activities; describes methods employed by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide information to the variety of stakeholders; and describes the way the community can contact and provide feedback to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Using the feedback received during the community interviews last summer and fall, the team incorporated updated goals into the CRP. These goals include increasing education about the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and where the current project fits in the process; increasing awareness of the project in the Spring Valley realtor community; continue to engage and maintain the same level of outreach and transparency to the community; and following project completion, ensure ongoing access to Army Corps of Engineers points of contact and project information. The Community Outreach team has already begun to follow up on several of these goals. For instance, the team reached out and briefed two area realtor groups this fall.

We presented the updated CRP at the September Restoration Advisory Board meeting. The document can be found on the Spring Valley's website, under Project Documents on the left-side of the home page: [www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley). A hard copy of the updated CRP can be found at the Spring Valley Information Repository, located at the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

We continually strive to address current stakeholder concerns and needs. The CRP ensures that the community members are provided opportunities to be continuously informed about and to be involved in the environmental restoration process. Comments and concerns are welcome anytime to further provide effective continued community relations efforts.