



Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

## Reminders for Site-Wide Remedial Investigation



\* The RI report **public comment period began April 8 and goes thru May 26**. Written comments can be sent to the following mailing address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Andrea Takash, Rm. 11400, 10 South Howard St., Baltimore, Md. 21201; or by e-mail to: [andrea.m.takash@usace.army.mil](mailto:andrea.m.takash@usace.army.mil) no later than May 26. Mailed letters must be postmarked by May 26. Comments also will be taken at the May 12 community meeting.

\* The **Restoration Advisory Board** meeting is scheduled for **May 5** at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

\* A **community meeting** will be held **May 12** in the Vestry Room at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The project team will be available to meet with the community during an open house from 6:30-7 p.m. The formal presentation, along with a question and answer session, will run from 7-8 p.m.



Direct link to the  
RI page

# The Corps'pondent



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

## Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Timeline

The project's regulatory partners (Environmental Protection Agency and D.C. District Department of the Environment) provided comments in February, which we addressed.

On Feb. 19, we sent letters to approximately 100 properties that require further consideration in the Feasibility Study.

The RI report public comment period began April 8 and goes thru May 26. A community meeting will be held May 12 in the Vestry Room at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. An open house is scheduled from 6:30-7 p.m, with a formal presentation, along with a question and answer session, running from 7 - 8 p.m.

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The full RI report, along with supporting documents, can be found on the project's website under Project Efforts/Remedial Investigation. Hard copies also can be found at the Tenley-Friendship Branch Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.

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

## Site-wide report summarizes 20 years of data from Spring Valley

The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of approximately 661 acres in Northwest Washington, D.C. During the World War I-era, the site was known as the American University Experiment Station (AUES) and Camp Leach. It was used by the U.S. government for engineer troop training, research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions. Between 1993 and 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed investigations to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of known contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment, and establish criteria for possible cleanup actions associated with past Department of Defense (DoD) activities. During the investigations, the Corps of Engineers also removed munitions related items and arsenic contaminated soil.

Due to the location of the FUDS in a residential community and the nature of the early burial pit findings, the Corps of Engineers took a multi-pronged approach to investigate previously identified areas while concurrently analyzing historical records to plan investigations in additional areas.



Soldiers conduct munitions testing at the American University Experiment Station.

### What is the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report?

Preparing the RI Report is part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The Spring Valley Site-Wide RI Report summarizes the results of completed field activities performed to characterize the nature and extent of any potential contamination resulting from past DoD activities in the Spring Valley FUDS. It reviews past DoD activities in the area now designated as the Spring Valley FUDS. The report describes various ways the



Testing at the former Circular Test Trench. The former trench was located on what today is Sedgwick Street.

area was defined based on historical and anecdotal information during the course of the RI to plan focused investigations. It then includes assessments based on the cumulative results of the RI field efforts to evaluate hazards posed by munitions and risks posed by chemical contaminants. Human health risk assessments, as well as an ecologi-

See Remedial Investigation page 2

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Project Managers ..... Dan Noble, Brenda Barber and Todd Beckwith  
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cal risk assessment, were developed to evaluate possible chemical contaminants. Munitions hazard assessments are documented in the report to evaluate potential munitions hazards at different areas throughout the Spring Valley FUDS. Finally, the report describes areas identified through the risk and hazard assessment processes, where the Army Corps of Engineers recommends a Feasibility Study (FS) to address potential remaining concerns.

What are the RI Recommendations?

- Conduct a FS to address chemical risks in soil:
  - o At a few locations on the American University campus and at the Spaulding Captain Rankin Area (a single private residence).
- Conduct a FS to address potential explosive hazards associated with:
  - o Munitions related items possibly remaining in the impact areas of the ballistic test ranges.
  - o Munitions burial pits within the static test fire areas and their surrounding buffer zones.
  - o Possible munitions disposal pits associated with the identified possible disposal areas.

What’s Next?

The Army Corps of Engineers will perform a FS focus-

ing on the areas recommended for further evaluation in the Remedial Investigation Report. The FS will outline how the Corps of Engineers plans to address the potential unacceptable risks and hazards. After the FS, the Corps of Engineers will prepare a Proposed Plan, which will identify a preferred clean-up action to address remaining risks and hazards. The public will be invited to review and provide comments on the Proposed Plan during a formal public comment period, which will include a public meeting.

The Corps of Engineers remains committed to implementing a measured and comprehensive path forward at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site — the objective being a thorough and complete cleanup, with the safety of the surrounding neighborhood, university community, and site workers as the number one priority.

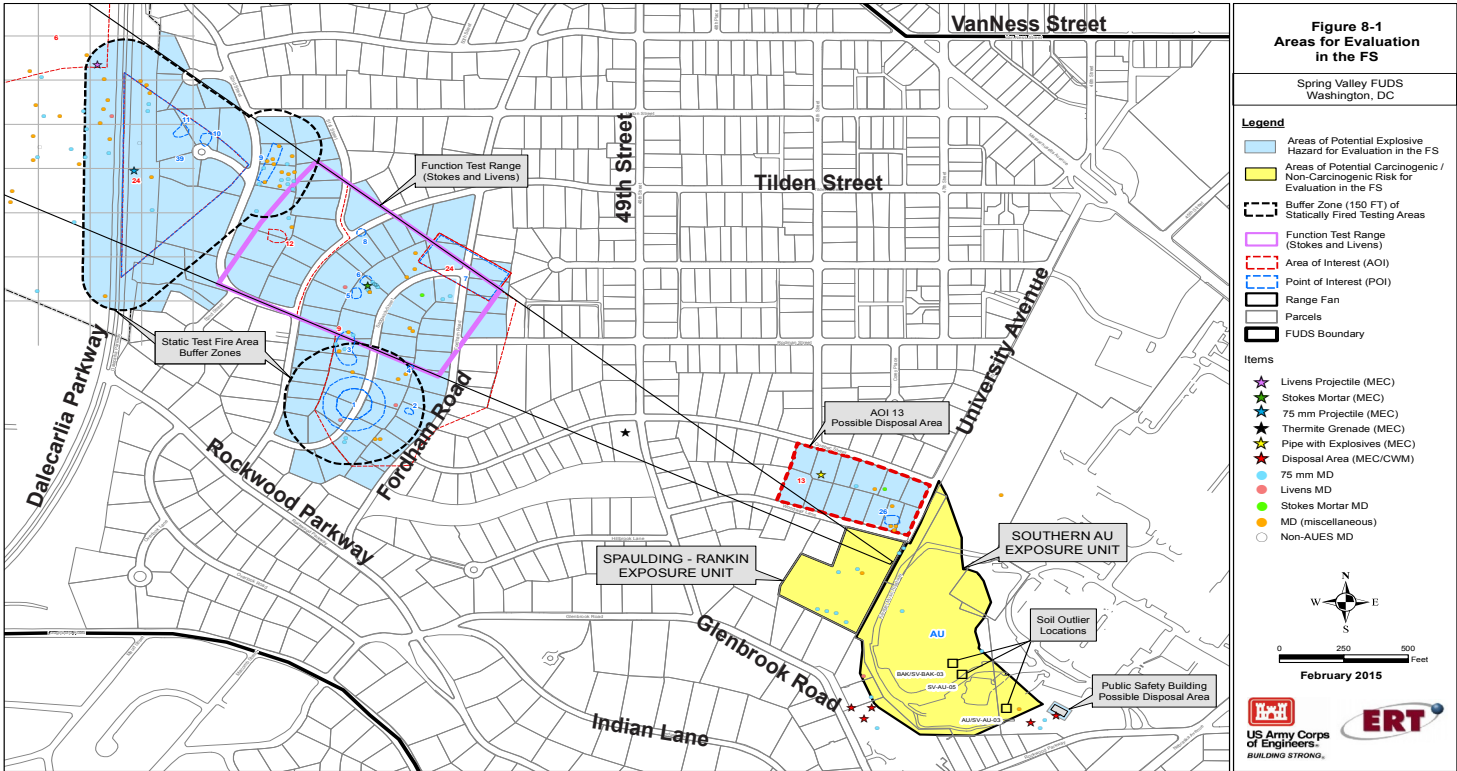
Where can I learn more?

The Site-Wide RI Report can be found under Project Efforts/Remedial Investigation at this link: [www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley). Additional fact sheets are also available on the website.

To learn more, please call our Community Outreach Office at 410-962-2210.



Direct link to the RI page



This map shows the areas the Corps of Engineers plans to further evaluate in the Feasibility Study. The blue shows the area for evaluation of potential hazards from munitions related items. The yellow shows the area for evaluation of potential chemical risks in the soil. The yellow area only consists of a few locations on American University and one private residence. A large-scale version of the map can be found on the main project website under Project Efforts/Remedial Investigation.

# Work progressing under the second tent location at 4825 Glenbrook Road



Crews safely recovered this open cavity, unfired, unfuzed 4.7 inch projectile on Feb. 10.

Experiment Station (AUES), three 75mm munitions debris items and two 4.7 inch projectiles were safely recovered so far this year. No chemical agent has been detected under the second tent. No intact glass containers have been found under the second tent.

During high probability excavation work in December, at 8-inches below the surface, the team encountered concrete in the backyard area. The thick concrete pad extended over an approximate area of 60’ X 10’, and required additional work to remove it. Crews inspected the slab as it was being broken into disposable pieces, to ensure it was not associated with any contamination.

In addition to our high probability operations this year, the Corps of Engineers recently installed new fencing along

Crews are continuing excavation of the soils under the second tent, in the backyard at 4825 Glenbrook Road. High probability operations under the second tent location started in December 2014, and since then 21 roll-offs have been filled with soil and seven roll-offs of rubble have been recovered. Crews have removed approximately 168 cubic yards of material with an anticipated amount of 329 cubic yards just in the backyard. More than 13 pounds of glassware associated with the American University



the Glenbrook Road side of the project site. With our operations in the front yard complete, we had the ability to move the fence off of the street, and install a more robust fence on the property. The new fence is taller (10 feet instead of 6 feet) with a grey screen of non-translucent fabric. In response to requests from the neighbors, we also placed tan colored fabric over the support equipment in the front yard area (including the personnel decontamination station, the redress tent, and medical monitoring shed) to match the color of the tent and minimize the visual impact at the street level.

The team will continue to excavate the backyard area down to competent saprolite over the next few months. Then the foundation walls will be removed. We remain on schedule despite the adverse winter weather this year, and the quantity of the AUES-related items recovered. After we complete the high probability excavation work under the third tent in the winter of 2016/2017, we will start the remaining low probability excavation, and finish in spring 2017. Site restoration is scheduled to take place from spring 2017 through summer 2017.

## Groundwater Update

The groundwater study will have its own stand alone RI report. However, a summary of current groundwater sampling data is included in Appendix G of the Site-Wide RI. On Jan. 15, the new groundwater monitoring well (MP-5) off of the Rockwood Parkway 'Island' was sampled for the first time. All samples were non-detect for perchlorate, and less than 1 parts per billion for arsenic. MP-5 will be sampled again in early summer. The annual sampling of select wells is scheduled for the end of April/early May.

