Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site, Washington, D.C.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

FACT SHEET as of 01 FEB 2023

Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense site in northwest Washington, D.C.

AUTHORIZATION: Defense Environmental Restoration Program

TYPE OF PROJECT: Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)

(DC-At Large)
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Representative **Norton**

BACKGROUND: The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of approximately 661 acres in the northwest section of Washington, D.C. During the World War I-era, the site encompassed what was known as the American University Experiment Station (AUES), which was used by the U.S. government for research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions, as well as Camp Leach, which was used for more traditional troop training. Today, the Spring Valley FUDS encompasses approximately 1,600 private homes/lots, including several embassies and foreign properties, as well as the American University and Wesley Seminary.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), has the lead responsibility for investigation and cleanup actions at the Spring Valley FUDS, and has entered into a formal partnering process with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). As a result of the agreement, all project decisions and priorities are determined by consensus. The three organizations, referred to as the Partners, agreed to prioritize the project work by risk, addressing the highest risks first.

Initial Investigation – In January 1993, a contractor digging a utility trench in the Spring Valley neighborhood discovered buried ordnance. The Army initiated an emergency response that was completed in February 1993 and resulted in the removal of 141 items with some containing chemical agents. In February 1993, USACE began to conduct a remedial investigation to characterize the nature and extent of the waste. After two years of investigation and 260 soil samples, USACE found four ordnance items and no chemical warfare materiel. In 1995, a No Further Action Record of Decision covering most of the site was signed, while acknowledging the Army's responsibility for follow-up action if needed.

Return Investigation – USACE returned in 1998 to further investigate potential ordnance burial pits on the residence of the Ambassador of South Korea. During this investigation, USACE discovered two burial pits containing munitions items and laboratory glassware, some of which contained traces of chemical agent. USACE, in partnership with EPA and DOEE, then expanded the investigation to include all properties within the FUDS boundary. This investigation included the identification and removal of arsenic-contaminated soil, a groundwater investigation, and the search for additional munitions, both in burial pits and isolated items on residential properties. These efforts are summarized next.

STATUS:

Contaminated Soil Investigation and Removal – USACE has conducted an extensive soil investigation to determine the nature and extent of soil contamination within the FUDS. As part of this effort 1,632 residential, federal/District of Columbia, and commercial properties/lots were sampled for arsenic, the main contaminant of concern in Spring Valley. USACE identified 177 properties/lots that required remediation. The primary method of remediation was through excavation and off-site disposal of the arsenic-contaminated soil. USACE has completed cleanup activities at all scheduled properties/lots at this time. Additionally, USACE has identified two areas of soil contamination not related to arsenic (American University south campus and a single adjacent private property) that will require small scale soil removals to address. The private property was completed in 2019, and the campus area was addressed in 2020. This effort is considered complete.

Groundwater Investigation – USACE has investigated to determine to what extent AUES-related activities may have impacted the groundwater within the FUDS. To date, USACE has installed 55 groundwater monitoring wells and sampled surface water at 25 additional locations. Perchlorate has been detected at levels above the EPA interim drinking water health advisory level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) at two locations in the project area. Arsenic had been detected in groundwater above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppb for drinking water in one area; although testing in 2019 showed the level had dropped below the MCL. The groundwater at the FUDS is not used as a potable water source. USACE recently completed additional testing which showed continued levels of contaminants below levels of concern; and so, in conjunction with EPA and the City, has determined that No Further Action is required. A Proposed Plan will be finalized this year proposing the close out of the groundwater effort; and the USACE will hold the required Public Comment period on this proposal in 2023.

Residential Ordnance Investigations and Clearance – USACE has prepared a Remedial Investigation Report that recommends further actions at 95 properties. USACE signed a Decision Document in the summer of 2017 that details actions that the Army will take to achieve final clearance at these properties. This action continued through 2022, and the final property was addressed in December 2022. This effort is considered complete.

Burial Pit Ordnance Investigations and Clearance – USACE successfully identified and removed munitions and debris from four burial pits and several debris fields containing over 1,000 ordnance items including rounds filled with chemical agent. Two of the burial pits were located on the residence of the South Korean Ambassador and were investigated and cleaned up successfully between March 1999 and March 2000. A third burial pit straddled the Ambassador's property and a private residence now owned by American University (4825 Glenbrook Road NW). USACE removed the ordnance and debris from the Korean Ambassador's side of the pit, called Pit 3, in late 2001 and into 2002. In 2007, USACE resumed investigating and removing additional munitions from the 4825 Glenbrook Road NW property and investigated via test pitting a second American University owned property (4835 Glenbrook Road NW) for burial pits (none were found). These activities require extensive safety measures and are thus very costly in relation to typical operations at the Spring Valley FUDS. Investigations at 4825 Glenbrook Road NW were temporarily stopped in 2010 to analyze the existing site safety control measures to adequately contain and filter an unexpected chemical recovered in a bottle at the site. The final cleanup measure for the property, selected by USACE and the regulatory Partners, is to remove the American University Experiment Station-related waste remaining at the 4825 Glenbrook Road NW property. The house was demolished in the fall 2012 and digging at the property resumed in September of 2013.

All remedial work was completed in late 2020. Final restoration activities at 4825 Glenbrook Road were completed in August 2021. A Closure Report was finalized and accepted by EPA and the City in October 2021; this effort along Glenbrook Road is now completed.

USACE also removed an extensive debris field, called Lot 18, located on American University property and investigated six suspected burial pits located adjacent to Lot 18, also on American University property. In late 2006, the USACE identified a new debris field on American University property adjacent to the Lot 18 debris field. The area has been identified as the Public Safety Building Debris Field and included approximately 4,000 square feet of debris which extended under the Public Safety Building. Investigation and cleanup of the area not under the building were completed in 2009. Several hundred pounds of American University Experiment Station-related debris and over 20 pieces of munitions debris were recovered. USACE is currently excavating to remove the debris from beneath the now demolished Public Safety Building. This effort was completed in April 2021, but unfortunately some debris continued into an adjacent hillside and remains to be removed. USACE is working to hire a new contractor in 2023 so that the additional debris can be addressed. Work is expected to resume in 2023 and extend into 2024.

BUDGET ($): These figures factor in costs to carry out actions authorized in future Decision Documents and are subject to change.

Total Estimated Overall Cost to Complete the Project ----------	$355.0 M
Past Costs through FY 2022----------	$338.8 M
Allocation for FY 2023----------	$11.5 M
Balance to Complete ----------	$4.7M

For more information contact Dan Noble at (410) 962-6782 or e-mail dan.g.noble@usace.army.mil. Also see this project's related web page - www.nab.usace.army.mil/SpringValley

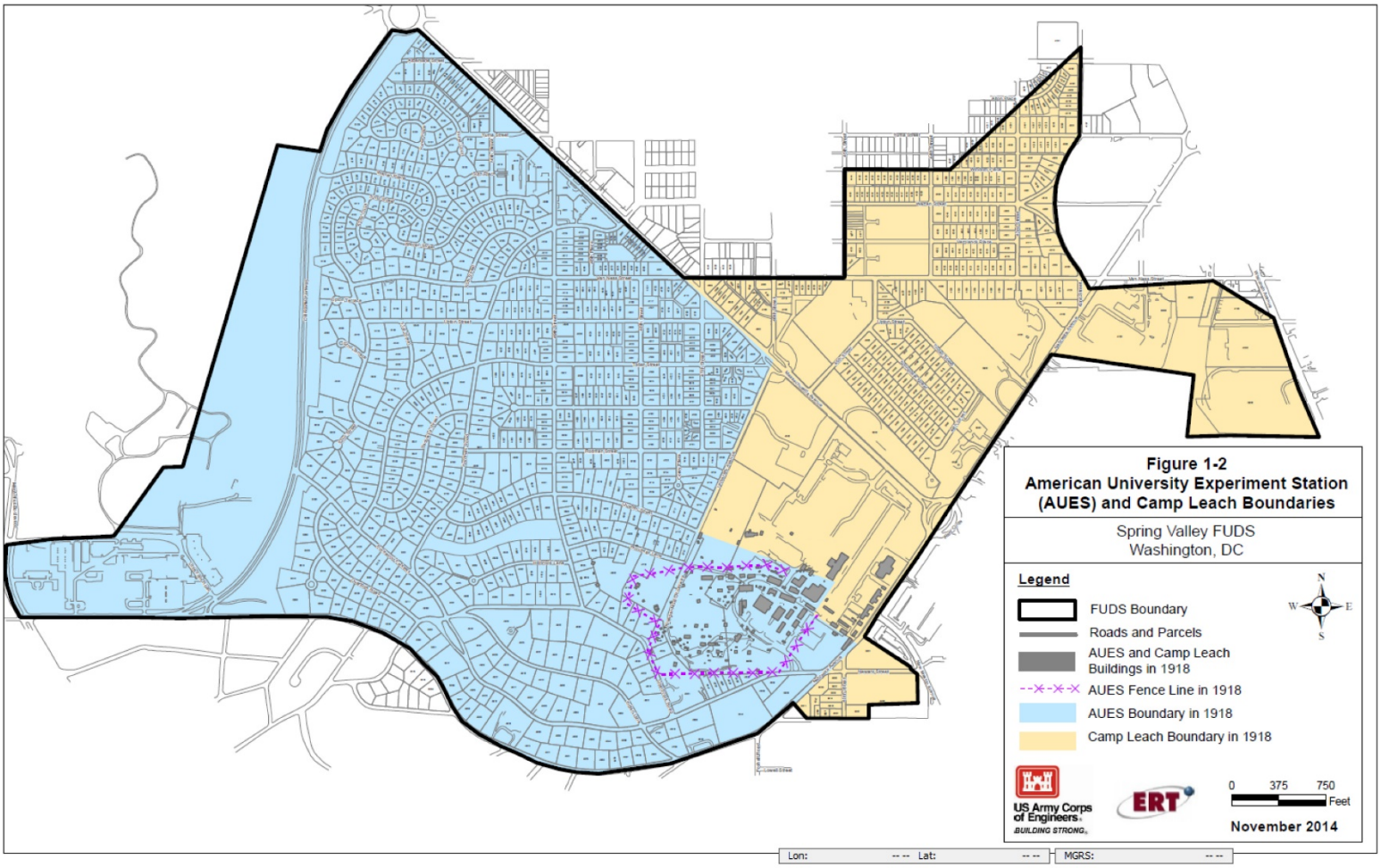
Figure 1-2
American University Experiment Station
(AUES) and Camp Leach Boundaries
Spring Valley FUDS
Washington, DC
Legend
FUDS Boundary
Roads and Parcels
AUES and Camp Leach Buildings in 1918
AUES Fence Line in 1918
AUES Boundary in 1918
Camp Leach Boundary in 1918
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