The Corps 'pondent

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

Groundwater Feasibility Study being reviewed by regulatory Partners

With the Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report (RI) for the Spring Valley FUDS project complete, we continue to work with our regulatory Partners, the Environmental Protection Agency and the DC Department of Energy and Environment, and our internal Army reviewing authorities, to finalize the Draft Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

The purpose of the FS is to develop, screen, and provide a detailed analysis of remedial alternatives to mitigate potential risks identified in the Final Groundwater RI.

It is important to note the groundwater in the Spring Valley neighborhood is not used as a source for drinking. However, if groundwater specifically around the south campus area of American University and Glenbrook Road were to be used for drinking in the future there would be unacceptable risk.

The Corps is moving forward with the Groundwater FS because of this potential unacceptable risk.

The ongoing FS was briefed at the May 9 Restoration Advisory Board meeting. That in-depth briefing, as well as the RI report, can be accessed on our website at:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Groundwater/

After the FS is finalized, a Proposed Plan will be developed, outlining a recommended path forward regarding the groundwater.

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Site-Wide Decision Document signed, Remedial Design work underway

Spring 2017	Prepare and Sign Site-Wide Decision Document ***(DONE)***
Summer 2017	Award Contract for Remedial Design/Remedial Action ***(DONE)***
Fall/Winter 2017	Remedial Design - Develop Work Plans for Remedial Work
~ 2018-2020	Remedial Action - Carry Out Remedial Work

The Site-Wide Decision Document, which outlines preferred remedial alternatives to mitigate unacceptable risks posed by soil contamination and unacceptable explosive hazards due to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) that may remain within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site, was finalized and signed on June 15, 2017. The Decision Document was reviewed by the Army Corps' regulatory Partners: the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (EPA) and the District's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and upon their approval it was sent to the Army Corps' Headquarters for final review.

Prior to contract award, potential contractors look at the Public Safety Building at American University while touring Spring Valley to learn more about the varied aspects of upcoming Remedial Action. AU has demolished this building and USACE will be removing the foundation and removing any Army-related contaminated that may exist.

Now that the Decision Document is finalized, the next step is to complete the Remedial Design, where details of carrying out the selected remedial alternatives are developed with a contractor. The contract was awarded to Weston Solutions on June 30, 2017. They are now drafting work plans for the Remedial Design, which is expected to be completed this Winter.

Once the Work Plans are reviewed and approved by the Army Corps and our Partners, field work will commence. As a reminder, this field work will be comprised of four main efforts:

- Performing Digital Geophysical Mapping of accessible areas and removing selected anomalies that appear to resemble munitions. These actions will only occur at 91 out of the ~1,600 Spring Valley properties and 12 government-owned lots. All 91 property owners have been contacted previously regarding this work.
- Removal of unacceptable chemical risks remaining in soil at specific locations within two areas, (referred to as Exposure Units in the Remedial Investigation Report): the Spaulding Captain Rankin Area and Southern American University area. [As a reminder, the investigation and removal of arsenic contaminated soil within the Spring Valley FUDS has been completed.]
- Removal of the remaining concrete slab and excavate soil from the former Public Safety Building (PSB) site on American University's campus. As a reminder, a disposal area we called 'Lot 18' was directly adjacent to the PSB.

(Remedial Action on page 2)

Pilot Study Report finalized, new tech to aid in remedial action

In April, the Army Corps team addressed comments from our regulatory Partners (the EPA and DOEE) and finalized the Pilot Study report, which details the Advanced Geophysical Classification pilot testing performed at three private properties in 2016. This report will form the basis for the upcoming Site-Wide Remedial Actions, to be performed from this Winter through 2020.

The results of the Pilot Project were approved by the EPA and DOEE, and concluded that either of the two newly developed "Advanced Classification" (AC) geophysical instruments tested during the Pilot Study (the MPV or the TEMTADS) would be capable of meeting the Spring Valley FUDS remedial action objectives if used in concert with a G-858 Magnetometer. The field teams will be able to use AC technology to determine which detected metallic anomalies are of potential concern and which are common residual cultural debris, such as modern construction nails. This technology will reduce the amount of disruption to Spring Valley properties during the final Remedial Action.

The report's findings and lessons learned are being incorporated into the Site-Wide Remedial Design, which will provide guidance for conducting removal actions at the 91 properties recommended by the Site-Wide Proposed Plan.

The Final Pilot Study Advanced Geophysical Classification report and its overview factsheet are available on USACE's Spring Valley website: http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley and in our Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library.

MPV

The Manned Portable Vector, commonly referred to as the MPV, is an Advanced Classification (AC) geophysical mapping technology that will be used during the Remedial Action.

Benefits of Applying New Technology		
Reduce Impact to Individual Properties	**Reduce Time Spent With Crews at Each Property**	**Reduce Overall Remedial Action Timeline**
Reduce the amount of digging on each property by screening out potential culturual debris like nails and scrap metal	In addition to reducing physical impacts at properties, the amount of time crews will be physically working on each property should be reduced as well	Even with more data processing, the reduction in digging should make the overall process progress more efficiently

(Remedial Action continued from page 1)

While Lot 18 was cleaned up in 2006, the Army Corps planned to investigate and remove any potential Army related contamination if the basement slab were to ever be exposed. With the PSB removed, the Army Corps team will remediate the site while conducting the other Remedial Action efforts. The Army Corps will then replace any soil that may be removed with clean backfill and return the property back to AU.

- Within the larger Spring Valley community, the Army Corps will continue to be involved in protecting public health and safety through an Explosives Safety Education Program, though this will not entail additional activities on private properties.

The Final Site-Wide Decision Document is available on our project website (http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Site-Wide/) and in our Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library.

Much more information is available regarding the Army's upcoming Remedial Action, as well as the full Decision Document itself in the Site-Wide section of the Spring Valley project website:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/home/SpringValley/Site-Wide

4825 Glenbrook Road work paused after incident on site and continued contamination along 4825/4835 shared property line

In late February, our crews started finding a solid black material mixed in the soil that we were excavating along the shared property line between 4825 and 4835 Glenbrook Road. Laboratory tests indicated that it contained low levels of chemical agents or related agent breakdown products. After this discovery, the team paused operations to review and update site safety procedures. Due to low concentrations of contaminant in the material, the team officially categorized it as Chemical Agent Contaminated Media, or CACM. Two brief site pauses were taken and full site operations resumed the first week of June.

Due to utilities, AUES debris and contamination, a majority of the soil excavation effort along the shared property line has required careful hand digging. This is more time consuming than mechanical digging, but necessary for safety purposes. With the summer heat, and the increased levels of personal protective equipment, it slowed our efforts.

Excavation work was stopped again after an incident on August 9th, when we had two downrange teams, approximately 7 people, experience some minor symptoms that indicated a potential exposure. This incident occurred while the teams were digging along the shared property line. After the initial incident, a separate crew mitigated the entire excavation area with a thick plastic cover. The 7 personnel reported some eye irritation and other minor symptoms that subsided within an hour. In accordance with procedure, the personnel were transported to the hospital for medical evaluation. They were medically cleared that evening and given a release to return to work the next day. All team members returned to work the next day and no one reported any additional symptoms.

After the August incident, the team halted all intrusive work at the site. USACE convened a formal Board of Investigation on August 22nd that was tasked with investigating the August incident to determine the root cause of the incident and issue a findings report. The Board is expected to issue its final report by the end of 2017. The BOI is completely independent of the Spring Valley project team and is not allowed to share details of the investigation with the team until the report is finalized. The BOI is made up of a board president from USACE Baltimore District, a former Spring Valley project manager, Gary Schilling; Steve Hirsh (EPA) and Jim Sweeney (DOEE); a representative from Edgewood (ECBC) who is a chemist able to provide the air monitoring and other sampling information; and an occupational health doctor from the Army's Public Health Command. These are all voting members who have to vote and concur on the final report. There are several non-voting members who are technical experts. There is a safety specialist from USACE Huntsville, which is our center of expertise for chemical warfare materiel. There are also several industrial hygienists and other medical experts from the Public Health Command and a legal advisor from USACE Baltimore.

An example of the Chemical Agent Contaminated Media, or CACM, encountered by crews at 4825 Glenbrook Road earlier in the year.

During the Board's investigation phase, non-intrusive operations have been performed at the site, including demolishing large sections of the concrete retaining wall and footers that were previously removed. The team also prepared work plans and equipment for further remediation and sampling efforts at 4835 Glenbrook Road, which started in December. This sampling effort is part of our ongoing investigation of the contaminated soils along the 4825/4835 shared property line. The sampling effort, along with the Board of Investigation's report, will inform our plans for returning to intrusive operations. When all non-intrusive activities are completed, the site may briefly shut down until an approved 'return to work' plan is prepared. During any site shut down, we will maintain a small team presence, and continue to monitor and secure the site.

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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 seeks new member

The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board is comprised of 14 Spring Valley community stakeholders and one representative each from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, DC Department of Energy and Environment as well as the nearby public school and American University. The RAB acts in an advisory capacity to assist government agencies engaged in the investigation and cleanup of the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

Community participation is vital to the success of the cleanup process. The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision making process. This is done through making information about the environmental processes, risks and cleanup progress available to the public and by establishing a formal forum for public participation on the project.

With one long-time member retiring and moving to the south, there are currently 13 active RAB members, and one opening for a community member to join.

If you live and/or work within the project area and are interested in serving on the RAB, please complete an application and mail it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Residents can obtain an application by calling the Community Outreach Team at 410-962-0157 or by visiting http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Community-Participation/.

To learn more about volunteering, please call or e-mail Malcom Pritzker, RAB membership chair, at 202-537-9595 or malpritz@aol.com.

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.

2018 RAB Schedule:

January 9
March 13
May 8
July 10
September 11
November 13