

The Corps' pondent



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

Groundwater Remedial Investigation finalized, draft Feasibility Study being reviewed

The Groundwater Remedial Investigation report (RI) for the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site was finalized in September 2016 and is now available to the public in the Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Library and on the Spring Valley website at:

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

We are continuing 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.

As such, the Corps of Engineers is moving forward with the Groundwater FS. Once reviews are done, the FS will be briefed at a future Restoration Advisory Board meeting.

February 2017 -- Vol. 18, No. 1

Site-Wide Proposed Plan finalized

Decision Document in finalization process

The Corps of Engineers finalized the Site-Wide Proposed Plan after an extended public comment period. The Proposed Plan is available to the public in the Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Library and on our project website here:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Proposed-Plan/

The Corps of Engineers is working to finalize the Site-Wide Decision Document. The Decision Document is based on the Proposed Plan, and includes formal response to all comments made during the public comment period. The draft-final Decision Document was sent to the regulatory Partners, the Environmental Protection Agency, the DC Department of Energy & Environment, and Dr. Peter DeFur, an independent technical advisor representing the community-based Restoration Advisory Board, for review and concurrence. Assuming regulator concurrence, the Decision Document will likely be sent to the Army Corps' Headquarters for final signature in February 2017. Once signed, the final Decision Document will also be available to the public in the Information Repository and on our project website.

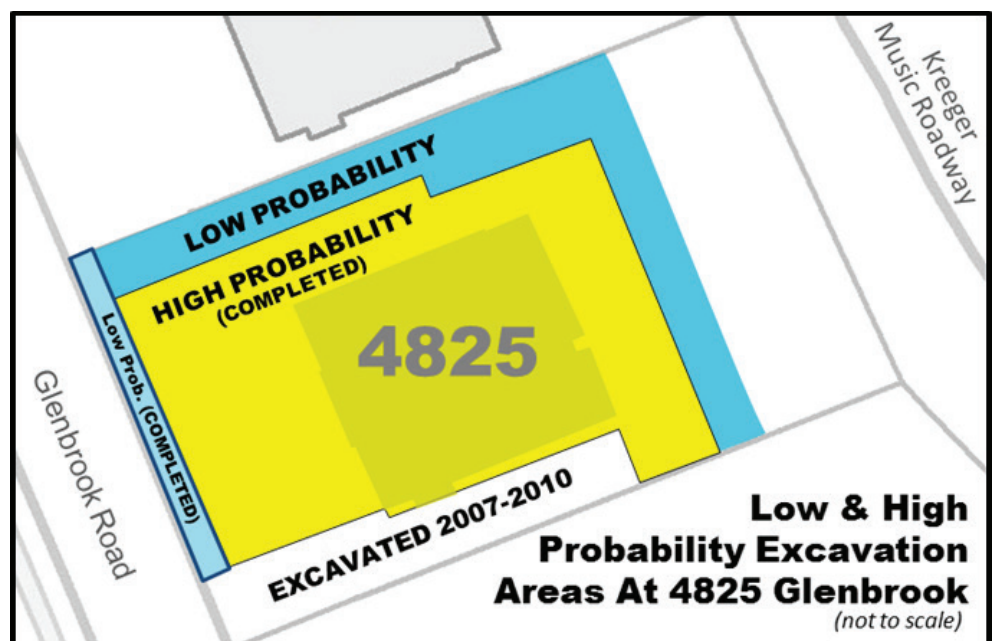
If you have any questions about proposed cleanup activities, you are invited to contact our Community Outreach Team at 410-962-2210

The next step, after the Decision Document is finalized, is completing the Remedial Design, where details of carrying out the selected remedial alternatives are developed with a contractor. This is expected to be underway in early 2017.

Low prob work at 4825 Glenbrook Road underway, on schedule

Now that the site team has successfully completed all three phases of high probability excavation operations at the 4825 Glenbrook Road site, crew began the final phase of low probability excavation in September 2016. Low probability operations include remedial action in previously identified areas of potential concern for soil contamination, stemming from past

(See 4825 Glenbrook on page 3)



Map showing location of low probability excavation work to be completed during the final phase of excavation at 4825 Glenbrook Road, currently underway. Crews anticipate completing this final phase of low probability work this spring, followed by restoring the property to residential standards in the summer to prepare it to be returned to the property owner.

Three different geophysical tools used during Pilot Project



MPV

The Manned Portable Vector, commonly referred to as the MPV, was one of the two new Advanced Classification (AC) geophysical mapping technologies tested during the Pilot Project



TEMTADS

The Time-domain Electromagnetic Multi-sensor Towed Array Detection System, or TEMTADS, was the other new AC geophysical mapping technology tested during the Pilot Project



EM-61

This electromagnetic instrument has been the standard used for years to map geophysical anomalies. It can help ensure anomalies are not missed during initial mapping, but has no AC capabilities.

Pilot Project field work completed, report being finalized

In November, our team completed the Pilot Project at three selected residential properties. The collected data is currently being used to evaluate the suitability of using two newly developed “Advanced Classification” (AC) geophysical instruments (the Time-domain Electromagnetic Multi-sensor Towed Array Detection System (TEMTADS) and Man Portable Vector (MPV)) within the Spring Valley residential area to detect and correctly identify buried munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) related items during upcoming cleanup activities outlined in Site-Wide Decision Document being finalized.

For the Pilot Project, the geophysical data was collected in two phases. During the first phase, the team ran the two instruments over the entirety of the three yards to collect the locations of any present metallic

anomalies. This phase helped create a list of metallic targets. During the second phase, the instruments were placed over each metallic anomaly target for about 30-60 seconds. At this time, the instruments’ function was to identify each metallic item as either a MEC item to be removed or cultural debris to be left alone, via electromagnetic signals.

The Corps of Engineers team also elected to use the EM-61, an electromagnetic instrument used in our previous investigations. The EM-61 was used to verify some of the readings from the TEMTADS and MPV, as well as finish geophysically surveying some areas that were not surveyed during the previous investigations on these three properties.

If the Pilot Project is successful, the Corps of

(See Pilot Project on page 3)

The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published by the Corporate Communication Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Phone: 410-962-2809 or Spring Valley Information Line: 800-434-0988. It is printed on recycled paper. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission.

Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

* 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

Baltimore District Commander & District EngineerCol. Ed Chamberlayne
Project ManagersDan Noble, Brenda Barber and Todd Beckwith
Public Affairs Specialist Christopher Gardner



This nail and metal scrap were removed during the Pilot Project. As part of the Pilot Project protocols, all anomalies detected were removed, just as they are during investigations using traditional instruments. Like with most investigatory work searching for munitions items, the vast majority of items removed from the Pilot Project properties was cultural debris like these items. The goal of the Pilot Project is to determine to what extent Advanced Classification technology might be used to reduce the intrusive removal of cultural debris during future munitions investigations in Spring Valley during the Remedial Action phase.

(Pilot Project continued from page 2)

Engineers will be able to use one of the AC instruments to determine which detected metallic anomalies are of potential concern and which are simply innocuous residual cultural debris. This achievement would reduce the amount of disruption to Spring Valley properties during the final Remedial Action.

For the purposes of the Pilot Project, all detected anomalies were intrusively investigated (dug up and removed from the ground). About 200 anomalies on average were removed from each property. The purpose of this effort was to verify if the new instruments were characterizing the anomalies correctly. The majority of the items

were innocuous non-military related cultural debris, such as nails, wire, bottle caps, and wire baskets. Four pieces of munitions debris (MD) were also removed from the site: three fragments of munitions debris and one three inch Stokes mortar, which was determined to be an unfused practice round and did not contain any explosive or chemicals. The TEMTADS and MPV both identified the Stokes mortar correctly.

Restoration at these properties began when this intrusive anomaly removal phase was completed. Restoration work included reinstalling transplanted plants, planting new replacements,

Intact Munitions Debris item recovered during Pilot Project



3" Stokes Mortar (unfused)

During Pilot Project removal work on November 14, crews removed a three inch Stokes mortar. Prior to digging, Advanced Classification instruments had correctly identified it as a three inch Stokes mortar.

Army Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel responded to the site and transported the item to Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia for safe storage and further assessment and safe disposal.

The item was determined to be an unfused practice round and it did not contain any explosive or chemicals. Based on this assessment, it was determined to be Munitions Debris (MD).

replacing sod, and restoring damaged sidewalk squares. We were able to work individually with each property owner to successfully restore the landscaping that was disturbed during the Pilot Project.

(4825 Glenbrook continued from page 1)

American University Experiment Station (AUES) activities. For clarification, low probability means that there is a lower probability of encountering AUES-related items during excavation, based on previous investigatory work.

Crews continue to follow strict safety protocols while excavating on site, including extensive air monitoring as we perform our operations.

During the initial low probability work in the backyard area of the property, crews did recover some small amounts of glass debris. All glass debris underwent analysis and was cleared for chemical agent.



One of a handful of pieces of glass debris recovered during current low probability operations at 4825 Glenbrook Road. All glass recovered underwent analysis and was cleared for chemical agent.

More recent activities have focused on the shared property line with the neighboring 4835 Glenbrook Road property, including preparing utilities to minimize any impact our work may have on the neighboring property while excavating along the shared property line.

Low probability work remains on schedule, and is expected to be completed this spring.

Once low probability work is done, the Corps will restore 4825 Glenbrook Road to residential standards, including grading and planting grass, so it can be returned to the property owner this summer.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Mark Your Calendars!!!

2017 Restoration Advisory Board Schedule

The public is welcome to attend the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Restoration Advisory Board meetings held every other month.

The Restoration Advisory Board, often referred to as the RAB, is comprised of 13 Spring Valley community stakeholders as well as representatives from the 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 the government agencies engaged in the investigation and cleanup of the Spring Valley

FUDS. The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision making process.

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.

The 2017 Restoration Advisory Board schedule is tentatively set for:

January 10

March 14

May 9

July 11

September 12

November 14

