

US Army Corps of Engineers <sup>®</sup> Baltimore District

## The Corps'pondent

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

July 2014 ~ Vol. 15, No. 2

## Groundwater monitoring program moves forward

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 advisories established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ur U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District field team began the 2014 spring sampling event at the end of June, as part of the extended groundwater monitoring program. We plan to report the results from the June sampling later this summer.

#### Most recent sampling data

The field team sampled more than 20 groundwater monitoring wells in December 2013 and March 2014. The March quarterly sampling detected perchlorate concentrations above the drinking water advisory level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) at two wells on American University (AU). The December 2013 and March 2014 preliminary sampling results are being reviewed by the Spring Valley Partners and were presented at the May Restoration Advisory Board meeting.

The Partners are examining all the sampling data, some of which go back to summer 2005. There are some interesting sampling indicators for them to consider with the current and new data. For example, the two shallow (less than 30 feet deep) monitoring wells (MW-24 and MW-25) on Glenbrook Road have been sampled since 2005. When these wells were first sampled, perchlorate was detected at some of the highest concentrations seen at the wells (70 - 120 ppb). Lower concentrations (2.5 ppb - non detect) have been detected more recently. These wells are down gradient from 4825 Glenbrook Road, 4801 Glenbrook Road, and AU Lot 18, where crews re-



Crews sample the monitoring wells.

moved extensive amounts of American University Experiment Station-related debris between 2003 and 2010. Also, there is additional soil and debris removal ongoing at 4825 Glenbrook Road since 2013. The exact cause of the decrease, or change in groundwater perchlorate concentrations is unknown, but those extensive removals may have had some positive impact on the groundwater.

The newer and much deeper (over 150 feet deep) multiport well, MP-2, located across from 4825 Glenbrook Road, was the only location where arsenic was detected above the drinking water standard of 10 ppb in December 2013. Arsenic was a significant contaminant of concern in soil at Spring Valley. However, detections of arsenic in groundwater above drinking water standards have only occurred at MP-2 and MW-24, which are directly downgradient of the disposal areas on Glenbrook Road.

See Groundwater page 4

# Plans underway to start moving the tent at Glenbrook Road in August

rews are wrapping up high probability work under the first tent location at 4825 Glenbrook Road. Work under this first tent has been cumbersome due to the amount of American University Experiment Station-related debris and the large amount of concrete associated with the house and retaining wall footers in the front



Crews repaired the driveway, which was damaged from the large amount of concrete that was part of the front retaining wall.

yard area. Crews are removing all of the footers during the excavation.

The high probability excavation crews have safely recovered the following items to date: 39 glass containers, five 75mm munitions debris items, one Mk IV adapter/booster, one 75mm shrapnel round with no explosives, and one 4.7 inch projectile with no explosives. To date, 146 pounds of metal debris, and over 530 pounds of broken glassware have been recovered.

In August, crews will start preparing the site for the second tent location, which will be in the vicinity of the former backyard. No high probability excavation work will take place during the tent move operations.

Not only will crews move the large tent (Engineering Control Structure), they also need to move the redress tent and personnel decontamination station to support the new tent location.

In order to move the Engineering Control Structure crews will assemble a large crane behind Glenbrook Road on the AU parking lot near Watkins Hall. The crane operators will move the tent in sections and place it in its new location in the backyard of the site. The tent move activities are expected to last August – October. The shelter-in-place program will be suspended during this time, since there will be no high probability operations at the site.

In addition to moving the tent during this time, crews also will finish low probability work required to prepare the second location for tent placement. We anticipate resuming high probability operations in early November.

We recently asked our contractor to provide us with the most conservative forecast of the project's overall schedule, based upon the knowledge we gained during our efforts under the first tent location at 4825 Glenbrook Road, plus past high probability operations at Spring Valley. Many in the community are aware that as we encountered numerous challenges under the first tent location, including a large amount of American University Experiment Station debris, more soil than expected, and an extensive amount of concrete related to the retaining walls and house structure, the schedule kept moving further out.

This new project schedule indicates that we will complete high probability work in winter 2016/2017. Then the remaining low probability work would start in the winter of 2017, with an estimated completion in the spring of 2017. Site restoration would follow, and the property returned to AU in the summer of 2017.

The 2017 completion date forecasted in this revised schedule assumes that we will encounter the same types of delays and roadblocks that we did during the first tent location. The schedule for completion will always be fluid and can change either direction, depending on what we encounter under the next two tent locations.

This revised schedule represents an additional year of work at 4825 Glenbrook Road. Our goal, however, is to continue to work safely and effectively so that we can finish earlier than 2017.

To learn more about the high probability work please watch this new video that shows the process that takes place in the Engineering Control Structure. This particular video illustrates our operations on March 12, 2014: <u>http://youtu.be/rK0LzWtzum8</u>.

## DC Water sampled soil before upgrades

**D** Water conducted soil sampling in fall 2013 to test for arsenic levels in Spring Valley as part of a design effort to upgrade the water main system in 2015.

drilling through the pavement and collecting two samples at each drill location at approximately 2.5 and 5 feet below the pavement surface in accordance with the American Society for Testing and Materials D-1586 specifications. Cored

As a precaution, DC Water is minimizing excavation in the area by lining water mains, where feasible, and only replacing water mains where additional capacity is needed. The potential for encountering munitions or chemical agents during the upgrades is low because the streets and

Street	# of Locations Sampled	Arsenic Concentrations
49th Street, between Quebec Street and Glenbrook Road	3	Not detected
Glenbrook Road, between 49th Street and Rockwood Parkway	4	Not detected
Rockwood Parkway, between Glen- brook Road and Nebraska Avenue	11	Range of not detected to 10 mg/kg
Nebraska Avenue, north of Rockwood Parkway	2	Range of not detected to 11.0 mg/kg
Woodway Lane, between 49th Street and end of street	3	Not detected

utilities were built after the area was used to test chemical agents. However, DC Water decided to sample the soil for arsenic because Lewisite, which is an arsenic compound, is known to have been one of the chemical agents that had been tested in the area and because DC Water wants to ensure that workers and the public are kept safe from any potential harmful exposures during construction.

Soil samples were collected at 23 locations by

pavement was backfilled with cement, and the surface was patched with asphalt.

Microbac Laboratories in Baltimore analyzed the samples for arsenic. None of the samples taken exceeded the Corps of Engineers' screening criteria of 20 mg/kg dry soil. DC Water also conducted soil sampling in Hillbrook Lane. Results will be available soon. For questions, please contact Susan MacNeil at: susan.macneil@dcwater.com.

## **RAB 2014 Meeting Schedule**

The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board meets the second Tuesday at 7 p.m., during the odd months of the year. Please note that due to the timing of the 2014 holidays, the July and November meeting dates were changed.

Meetings are open to the public and are held in the Undercroft room at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street NW, Washington, D.C.

July 15 \* September 9 \* November 18

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### Groundwater, two new wells to be installed, continued from page 1

Planning has continued for the installation of the two additional deep wells. One new well, MW-46S/MW-46D, will be placed on Sibley Hospital property to provide information on the depth of perchlorate in groundwater in this area. The other new well, MP-5, will further evaluate if there is any connection between the AU perchlorate plume and the plume detected in the vicinity of Sibley Hospital.

We met with a few residents, local ANC commissioners, Restoration Advisory Board members, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton on April 29 to discuss the location for MP-5. Initially, the well was planned to be installed on the Rockwood Parkway island. However, based on discussions with the community, we began looking for an alternative location for the new well in the road on Rockwood Parkway or Indian Lane. We had Miss Utility mark the roads for utilities in order to find a suitable location for MP-5 within the required drilling zone. As a result, the new location for MP-5 will be on the road, several feet away from the tip of the Rockwood Parkway island. Currently, we are waiting for the permit and traffic control plan approval from Washington, D.C. The wells are tentatively scheduled to be installed this summer.

