

UPDATED

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR
SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

WASHINGTON, DC



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
BUILDING STRONG®

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Community Relations Plan was developed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Spring Valley (SV) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) located in suburban northwest Washington, D.C. It is in compliance with federal guidelines and requirements, in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Management Guidance. Earth Resources Technology, Inc. (ERT) prepared this document on behalf of the USACE, Baltimore District. This document is an update to the existing Community Relations Plan, first issued in and routinely updated since 1998.

This plan identifies community concerns regarding the environmental investigations and cleanup activities at the SV FUDS; describes the methods employed by the USACE to provide information to a variety of stakeholders including residents, community groups, elected officials, regulatory agencies and other interested stakeholders; and describes ways the community can provide feedback to the USACE. This plan also provides historical background information on the SV FUDS and previous environmental investigations in the FUDS. It presents an overview of the Spring Valley community, a summary of previously compiled community concerns and details on community interviews conducted in summer 2013. In addition it offers community relations strategies for the USACE to update the existing community relations plan to best address current stakeholder concerns and needs.

While the USACE is continuously listening to community feedback and revising outreach strategies based on changing community needs, the community interview process conducted in 2013 provided the USACE with important information on community perspectives, past outreach efforts and the breadth and depth of knowledge that stakeholders have about the SV FUDS. The purpose of the community interview discussions was to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide specific feedback on their opinions, beliefs, concerns, and recommendations about the Spring Valley project and the variety of community outreach methods. This information was then used to update the SV Community Relations Plan (CRP) and inform the approach to community involvement throughout the duration of the site-wide Spring Valley project. Overall, community members reported favorable opinions of the investigation and the outreach efforts. The primary concerns voiced by participants are the long duration of the project, the effects on property values, and the communication of risk. Responses reflect that the community is overall satisfied with the current level and frequency of information being provided regarding the project and expressed the most interest in learning about how the USACE plans to ensure that the project is complete and how this completion is communicated to the public. Generally, participants agreed that the current mechanisms available for community involvement, including contacting the Community Outreach team and USACE project leaders, and attending Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and public meetings, are appropriate.

In accordance with feedback received during community interviews as well as ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, the USACE will continue implementation of current community outreach program and goals, while incorporating updated objectives. The updated objectives of the Community Relations Program as outlined in the Community Relations Plan are summarized as follows:

Objective 1: Increase education on CERCLA and where/how the SV FUDS fits in the process.

Objective 2: Increase awareness of the SV FUDS in the Spring Valley realtor community.

Objective 3: Ensure continued access to USACE points of contact and project information following project completion.

Objective 4: Continue to engage and maintain the same level of outreach and transparency to the community.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABP	Agent Breakdown Product
AOITF	Area of Interest Task Force
AOI	Area of Interest
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AUES	American University Experiment Station
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
CWM	Chemical Warfare Materiel
DC	District of Columbia
DOH	Department of Health
DDOE	District Department of the Environment
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DoD	Department of Defense
ECS	Engineering Control Structure
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPIC	Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center
ERT	Earth Resources Technology, Inc.
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
FS	Feasibility Study
IR	Information Repository
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MD	Munitions Debris
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
NCP	National Contingency Plan
OSR	Operation Safe Removal
PAWG	Public Affairs Working Group
POI	Point of Interest
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act
SIP	Shelter-in-Place
SV	Spring Valley
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WWI	World War I

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1.0 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

In an effort to enhance community relations through education and involvement of community members, the Community Relation Plan (CRP) explains how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will engage the community and the public in the environmental investigation and cleanup process at the Spring Valley (SV) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) located in northwest Washington, D.C. (Figure 1).

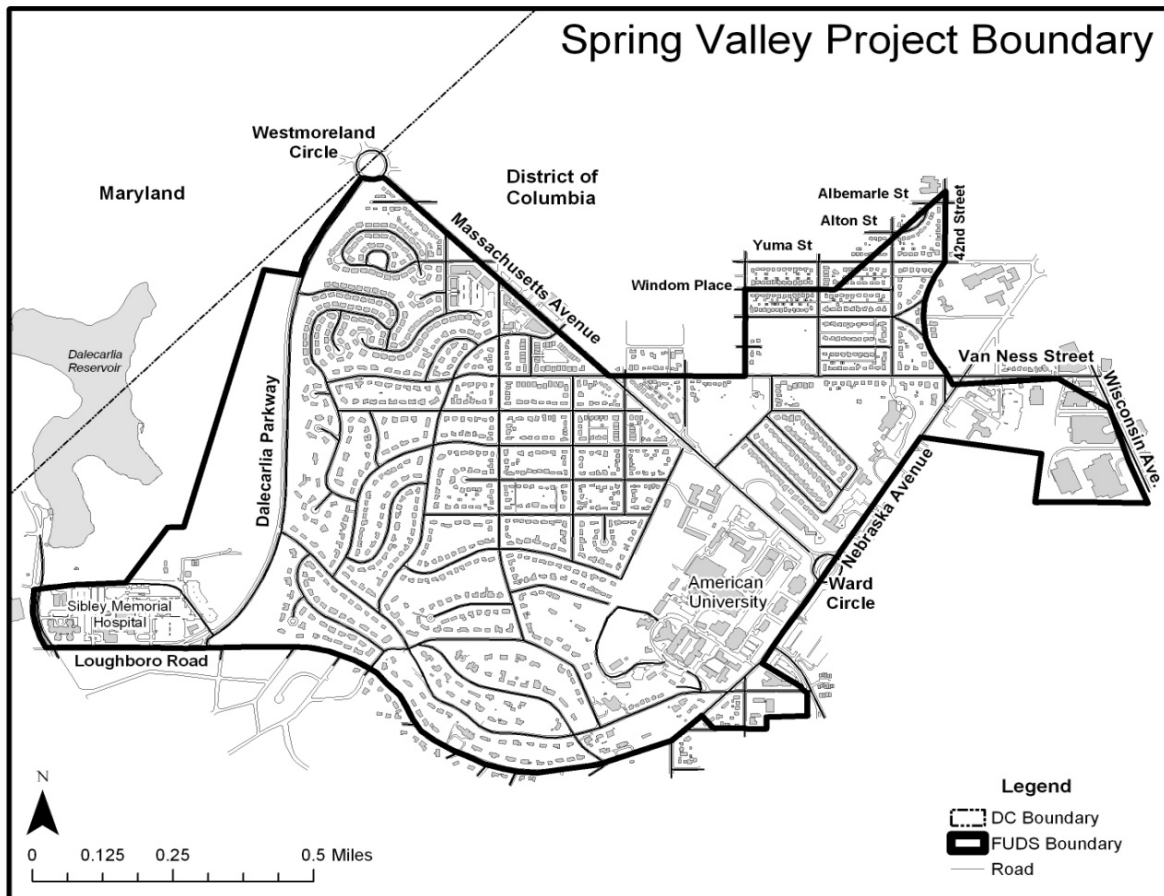


Figure 1. Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Project Location

The SV FUDS is extremely complex and presents many challenges. Among these is the search for possible burial areas of material that occurred more than 90 years ago and for which there are no documented locations. Added to that is a physical environment that has significantly changed during the years due to extensive development of what was primarily open space during the World War I (WWI) timeframe. Despite these challenges, the USACE and its regulatory partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), remain committed to aggressively pursuing identification and remediation of all hazards associated with past Department of Defense (DoD) actions in the Spring Valley area.

1.1 Purpose of the CRP

The purpose of the plan is to ensure that community members are provided opportunities to be continuously informed about and to be involved in the environmental restoration process. The

plan identifies community concerns regarding environmental cleanup activities in the SV FUDS; describes ways in which the USACE will provide information to residents and interested stakeholder groups; and outlines methods for the public to voice concerns and provide feedback to the USACE. This plan also provides historical background information on the SV FUDS and previous environmental investigations in the FUDS. It presents an overview of the Spring Valley community, a summary of previously compiled community concerns and details on community interviews conducted in Summer 2013. This document is an update to the existing Community Relations Plan, first issued in and routinely updated since 1998.

1.2 Organization of the CRP

The CRP is prepared in compliance with federal guidelines and requirements in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Management Guidance. It is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0 Introduction and Background provides an overview of the CRP and explains its purpose and organization.
- Section 2.0 Regulatory Background and Requirements outlines the regulatory requirements that guide the SV FUDS program.
- Section 3.0 Site Description and Investigations contains an overview of the SV FUDS history, previous and ongoing investigations.
- Section 4.0 Community Background presents demographic information, community relations activities to date, and a review of community interviews.
- Section 5.0 Community Interviews provides a summary of previous and recent community interviews.
- Section 6.0 Community Relations Program presents the goals of community relations, federal and state guidance documents, Community Relations Program objectives, and approaches to implementation of the Community Relations Program.
- Section 7.0 References is a record of the references used to prepare this CRP.
- Appendices: The following appendices are included:
 - Appendix A: Administrative Record and Information Repository Locations
 - Appendix B: Suggested Locations for Public Meetings
 - Appendix C: Points of Contact
 - Appendix D: Area Organizations
 - Appendix E: Restoration Advisory Board
 - Appendix F: Washington D.C. Media
 - Appendix G: Distributions Lists Plan
 - Appendix H: Community Interview Questions

For more information about this document, the community relations program, or the SV FUDS project, visit the project website at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx>.

2.0 REGULATORY BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENTS

The United States Congress established a program to inspect and clean up hazardous waste sites across the country through the CERCLA of 1980 and the SARA of 1986. The SV FUDS is not listed as a Superfund Site pursuant to the CERCLA; however, environmental response investigations of the site are being conducted in accordance with the CERCLA of 1980 as amended by the SARA of 1986, the National Contingency Plan (NCP), and the DERP Management Guidance (Figure 2). The DERP established under CERCLA provides the authority for certain cleanup activities at FUDS in the United States and its territories. The cleanup of FUDS under the DERP is referred to as the DERP-FUDS program. FUDS are properties that the DoD once owned or used, but no longer controls. These properties can range from privately-owned ranches to National Parks, residential communities, schools, colleges, and industrial areas. The DERP-FUDS program includes former Army, Navy, Air Force or other defense agencies' properties. The U.S. Army is the Executive Agent for the program and the USACE is the organization that manages and directs the program's administration.

2.1 CERCLA

In response to environmental problems posed by past hazardous waste disposal practices, Congress directed the EPA to develop a program to manage and control past disposal sites. This program was outlined in CERCLA of 1980. CERCLA established a series of programs for the cleanup of hazardous waste disposal and spill sites nationwide. CERCLA also requires that all contaminated federal facilities that are not listed on the National Priorities List, such as the SV FUDS, comply with all applicable state laws concerning environmental investigation and cleanup (EPA, 1980).

2.2 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)

SARA amended CERCLA on October 17, 1986, after the EPA had administered the Superfund program for six years. SARA made several important changes and additions to the program including the DERP. It stressed the importance of permanent remedies and innovative treatment technologies in cleaning up hazardous waste sites and required Superfund actions to consider the standards and requirements found in other State and Federal environmental laws and regulations. In addition, it provided new enforcement authorities and settlement tools, and increased State involvement in every phase of the Superfund program. SARA also increased the focus on human health problems posed by hazardous waste sites; encouraged greater citizen participation in making decisions on how sites should be cleaned up; and increased available funding for these purposes (EPA, 1986).

2.3 Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)

DERP was formally established by Congress in the SARA of 1986 and provides for the cleanup of DoD sites under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. The Army has two restoration programs under DERP at active/operating Army installations; the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The IRP is a comprehensive program to identify, investigate and clean up hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants at active/operating Army installations. The MMRP addresses non-operational range lands that are suspected or known to contain unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituent contamination. The MMRP includes FUDS.

2.4 Regulatory Oversight

Regulatory oversight of the environmental response investigations at the SV FUDS is being conducted by the USEPA Region III and the DDOE.

This Spring Valley CRP is a requirement of the NCP, as described in Engineering Pamphlet 1110-3-8 [*Public Participation in the DERP for FUDS*, 9 April 2004]. In accordance with Chapter 2-6, a CRP must be prepared for all remedial response actions and all removal response actions that extend beyond 120 days.

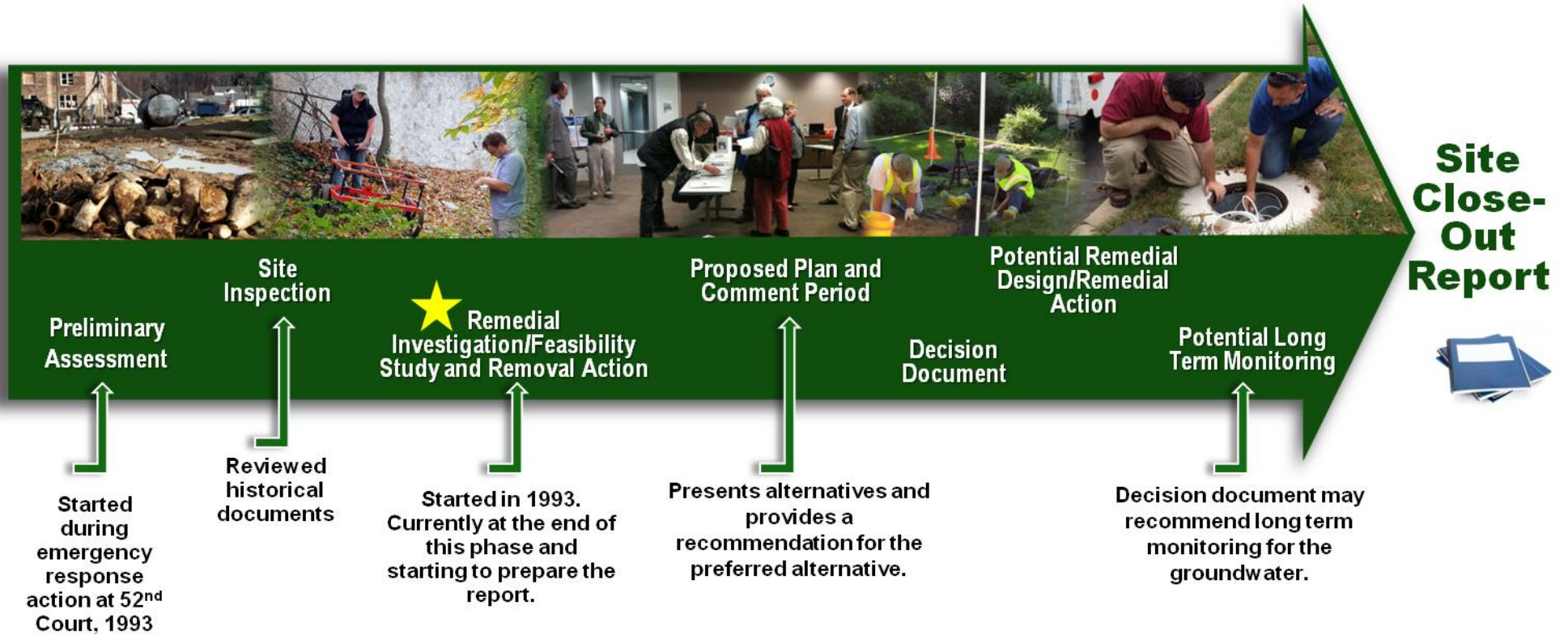


Figure 2: The CERCLA Process

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3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND INVESTIGATIONS

The SV FUDS comprises about 660 acres in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C. Although the borders extend beyond these streets at some points, the cleanup site is roughly bordered on the west by the Dalecarlia Woods and the federal property that belongs to the Washington Aqueduct, on the south by Loughboro Road, on the east by Nebraska Avenue and on the north by Massachusetts Avenue and Van Ness Street (See Figure 1 in Section 1).

3.1 Historical Site Use by the Department of Defense

3.1.1 Civil War - Fort Gaines

According to land use research, the area in or near what is now designated as the SV FUDS was used in many different ways by the DoD since the Civil War era. During the Civil War, Fort Gaines was built near Massachusetts Avenue, a quarter mile west of present day Nebraska Avenue. In 1865, the fort was dismantled.

3.1.2 World War I - American University Experiment Station

In 1917 the Bureau of Mines funded the American University Experiment Station (AUES) to do research and perform small-scale testing of chemical warfare items. The terms of the agreement with American University gave the Bureau of Mines use of approximately 92 acres of property. Additional land for the AUES was leased from other property owners for field testing the chemicals and munitions developed at the research center on American University property. The AUES, including the range and proving ground areas, encompassed about 463 acres. Activities include research related to offensive weapons, gas masks, pyrotechnics, medicine and pharmacology, as well as small-scale manufacturing, and gas production. The research contributed significantly to the allied forces' efforts in WWI.

3.1.3 World War I - Camp Leach

Also during WWI, the War Department (the present day DoD) set up Camp Leach northeast of the AUES. The camp consisted primarily of tents and barracks, along with staging and training areas for troops. From 1917-18, about 100,000 troops trained on this 185-acre site. Most of them were engineer units training in trench warfare and the handling of chemical munitions.

In December 1918, use of Camp Leach and the AUES was discontinued. All temporary buildings, made unusable due to gas saturation, were burned to the ground by the Washington, D.C., Fire Department. All of the buildings utilized by the DoD were vacated by October 1920.

3.1.4 World War II – Navy Bomb Disposal School

Between 1942 and 1946 the Department of the Navy leased five acres and 15 buildings from American University to establish the Navy Bomb Disposal School. The Navy used the property for research and educational purposes. There is no evidence indicating that the Navy conducted field testing or disposal of conventional and/or chemical munitions.

3.2 Overview of Investigations

3.2.1 1993 – 1995: Operation Safe Removal (OSR)

On January 5, 1993, a contractor unearthed buried munition items while digging a utility trench for a home under construction on 52nd Court. Upon notice of the discovery, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit from the Chemical and Biological Defense Agency at Aberdeen Proving

Ground, Maryland, initiated an emergency response which was completed on February 2, 1993. The emergency response resulted in the removal of 141 ordnance items (43 suspect chemical items) from the burial pit. After this nearly one month operation, the area formerly used by the AUES and Camp Leach was designated as the SV FUDS and the USACE Baltimore District was tasked to perform an in-depth remedial investigation for the SV FUDS.

Using historical documentation including reports, maps and photos, the USACE focused its investigation on specific areas that were determined to have the greatest potential for contamination. These areas were referred to as Points of Interest (POIs). During the extensive, two-year investigation that followed, geophysical surveys were done at POIs considered to be potential ordnance burial locations, plus a selection of approximately 10 percent of all properties outside of the POIs. These additional properties served as a measure to verify the quality and completeness of the historical information that had been gathered. A total of 492 properties and lots were surveyed and a total of 840 anomalies were selected for intrusive investigation. (Anomalies are disturbances in the electromagnetic field that may be indicative of metal objects below the ground surface). One munition item identified as a spent Livens smoke round, and approximately 20 other pieces of munitions, known as munitions debris (MD) were recovered during the anomaly investigations. All of these items were safely removed from the SV FUDS. The remaining investigated anomalies were determined to be metallic construction debris from property development. No additional burial pits were identified and no additional chemical warfare materiel was recovered.

In addition to the geophysical investigations conducted during the remedial investigation to characterize the nature and extent of residual AUES contamination, a total of 260 soil samples were collected at 13 areas that included 17 POIs. Samples were taken from randomly selected locations within each POI as close as possible to the 1918 ground surface level. The USACE and EPA Region III analyzed the samples for chemical agents, chemical agent breakdown products (ABPs), metals and explosives. . No chemical agents, ABPs, explosives or explosive breakdown products were found in any of the samples taken. However, several metals were identified that exceeded the EPA's risk based screening criteria. These metals were included in a quantitative baseline risk assessment. This assessment found no elevated health risk requiring remedial action. Arsenic was not identified as a chemical of potential concern in the risk assessment since the sampling results were not significantly different from the background concentrations of arsenic.

These findings were documented in a Remedial Investigation Report in March 1995 and later re-issued in June 1995 with minor page change revisions. This report was followed by a No Further Action Record of Decision in June 1995. In this decision, the Army took responsibility for any future actions required if additional munitions or contamination related to past DoD activities were discovered.

3.2.2 **1998 - Investigation Resumes**

The DC Department of Health and Environmental Administration (now the DC Department of Health (DOH) prepared a report dated July 1996 that criticized the USACE's work at Spring Valley. As part of the evaluation in response to the report, the USACE verified that all of the POIs identified during OSR were properly located except one, POI 24. POI 24, described as a Probable Pit, was determined to be incorrectly located by approximately 150 feet.

Given the mislocation of POI 24, the USACE conducted field investigations of the area in the vicinity of the revised POI 24 location, along Glenbrook Road. In 1998, a geophysical survey of the area identified two large metallic areas indicative of possible burial pits below the ground surface. A plan was developed, and in March 1999, an intrusive investigation of this area located two large burial pits, referred to as Pits 1 and 2. A year later, the investigation was completed. A total of more than 600 items were recovered and included 368 munitions and munition debris items. Nineteen of the items were determined to contain chemical warfare agent, predominantly mustard agent. Following this work, soil samples were collected from the vicinity of Pits 1 and 2. Test results indicated elevated levels of arsenic in portions of the area. Following a comprehensive risk assessment, the USACE determined that the top two feet of soil in the affected areas should be removed and replaced with new soil. The soil removal began in December 2000, was completed a few months later, and the property was then restored.

3.2.3 **Investigation Expanded: Site-Wide Soil Sampling and Removal**

Based on investigation findings from Pits 1 and 2 and the removal of arsenic contaminated soil from the area, it was determined in January 2000 that the area of investigation should be expanded beyond the direct vicinity of POI 24.

Nine properties and several lots on the American University campus were recommended for further detailed sampling including the American University Child Development Center. This sampling was completed in January 2001. Given the sensitivity of this area, soil sampling and analysis around the Child Development Center was expedited and the results identifying elevated levels of arsenic were provided to the university. American University officials relocated the Child Development Center to another area of the campus and soil removal and follow-on restoration was completed in November 2001. Following the discovery of elevated arsenic at the Child Development Center, the DC DOH, EPA Region III, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted an exposure study of the children attending the center. Study results did not indicate a health risk to the children.

In response to significant community concerns regarding possible soil contamination in the greater community the USACE, in consultation with the EPA Region III and the DC DOH developed a comprehensive plan to conduct arsenic soil sampling on every property within the SV FUDS. Sampling began in 2001. If a particular property was determined to have an elevated level of arsenic, then a more detailed grid sampling procedure was done. Of the more than 1,600 properties and lots in the study area, all but twelve properties have been sampled for arsenic, including 10 residential, one commercial, and one federal/DC property comprised of nine half acre lots. Rights of entry could not be obtained for those not sampled. The results of the arsenic sampling were evaluated to determine any elevated health risk.

Working with the EPA Region III and the DC DOH, the USACE agreed upon a conservative cleanup goal of 20 parts per million (ppm). One hundred and eighty three properties were identified with one or more grids with arsenic concentrations above the agreed upon cleanup goal. While soil removal was the primary method for remediation, the USACE also used a non-intrusive remedial alternative using ferns that naturally extract arsenic from soil. This process, known as phytoremediation, was used to fully or partially remediate 22 properties. Phytoremediation and/or soil removal, and restoration were completed in January 2012, except one property where access was not granted.

3.2.4 Investigation Expanded: Groundwater Study

USACE, in close coordination with EPA Region III and DDOE, began a groundwater study in 2004 to assess whether any chemicals used at AUES were impacting groundwater in the SV FUDS.

In summer 2004, the USACE installed five piezometers; devices used to measure groundwater elevations and determine groundwater flow direction. The first monitoring wells were installed and sampled in 2005. Two chemicals were identified with elevated concentrations. Arsenic was identified above 10 parts per billion (ppb), which is the EPA's maximum contaminant level (MCL). Perchlorate was identified above 15 ppb, the EPA's Interim Drinking Water Health Advisory Level. Groundwater in Spring Valley is not used as a drinking water source, but for comparison purposes, groundwater contaminant concentrations are compared to drinking water standards and advisory levels established by EPA.

Since 2005, a total of 80 locations in and around the SV FUDS have been sampled at least once, including surface water sampling locations, existing monitoring locations, and wells and piezometers installed as part of the SV FUDS groundwater study. Sampling efforts are generally conducted on an annual basis to monitor concentrations over time and based on the cumulative results of groundwater monitoring efforts. Quarterly sampling efforts of selected monitoring locations where elevated levels of perchlorate and arsenic were previously identified began in May 2011.

The highest perchlorate concentration, 146 ppm, was identified in 2007 in a piezometer located near Kreeger Hall on the American University campus. Another area of elevated perchlorate was identified in the vicinity of Sibley Hospital. Subsequent groundwater study efforts have focused on isolating the source of the elevated perchlorate, particularly in the vicinity of the piezometer on American University's campus just up gradient of burial pit locations in the Glenbrook Road area and assessing groundwater flow patterns down gradient of the piezometer.

The observations made during the ongoing groundwater study on the source and trending contaminant concentrations are that the Glenbrook Road burial pits are the probable source that has caused the groundwater arsenic concentrations to approach or exceed the arsenic drinking water standard at the wells located immediately adjacent and down gradient. Arsenic concentrations in these wells decreased noticeably over time, after the Glenbrook Road burial pit areas had undergone various cleanup efforts. Sampling data shows that additionally, the past seven years of elevated arsenic concentrations do not extend to the monitoring wells down-gradient, indicating that the arsenic impacted groundwater is not widespread. Additionally, arsenic concentrations in groundwater at American University and Sibley Hospital at all monitoring locations have always been well below the arsenic MCL of 10 ppb, indicating that arsenic in groundwater at these areas is not a concern. Extensive investigations completed near the American University Kreeger Hall suspected source area did not identify a definitive perchlorate source such as a buried perchlorate-containing item. However, the perchlorate concentrations in the American University Kreeger Hall area have decreased from July 2006 through May 2011. The exact cause of the decrease in groundwater perchlorate concentrations is unknown but may relate to the various soil and debris removal activities conducted at American University during the 2003 to 2010 timeframe. Further monitoring of the existing wells at American University will further characterize the average perchlorate depth and concentration.

3.2.5 Investigation Expanded: Site-Wide Munitions Investigations

During the 1993 OSR Remedial Investigation, 53 POIs were identified based on review of historical 1918 aerial photograph, documents, and photographs from the AUES and Camp Leach. These POIs are areas potentially impacted by previous DoD activities.

In 2002, the Areas of Interest Task Force (AOITF), a subcommittee of the Spring Valley Partners that also included the Restoration Advisory Board's (RAB's) technical advisor, looked at some of the POIs and additional locations to determine areas potentially needing further investigation, referred to as Areas of Interest (AOIs). The AOITF made recommendations to the Partners based on review of additional historical and anecdotal information, as well as reports on completed or ongoing investigations. The AOITF completed its work in 2007.

The Partners jointly concurred to conduct additional munitions and/or soil investigations in and around some of these AOIs to determine whether any evidence of WWI-related hazards exist in association with the identified areas. These investigations were conducted on residential properties, federal and District of Columbia lots, and on American University. Some AOIs were not selected for additional investigation.

Munitions investigations were conducted on 99 residential properties between 1998 and 2011. The munitions investigations were conducted in two phases. Properties were first surveyed using geophysical instruments (sophisticated metal detectors) to identify buried metallic anomalies. Following analysis of the geophysical survey results by USACE and the Spring Valley Partners, intrusive investigations of metallic anomalies with characteristics of possible buried WWI munition items were conducted. Thousands of metallic anomalies were investigated and nearly all were identified to be metallic cultural or construction debris, such as old horse and mule shoes, rebar, and bricks. One or more munitions debris items were recovered at 24 properties. Munitions items classified as munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) were safely recovered from three properties during the anomaly investigations. Other than 4825 Glenbrook Road, which is being addressed separately, anomaly investigations are completed at all planned residential properties except at one where access was not granted.

Between 2007 and 2011, munitions investigations were also completed on approximately 60 acres of District of Columbia and federal property located in the western edge of the SV FUDS by the Dalecarlia Reservoir, using the same geophysical survey approach employed as part of residential investigations. The investigations encompassed two AOIs and the terminus of the AUES firing range fan for Livens projectiles. A total of two MEC items and 69 munitions debris items were recovered. Of the 69 munitions debris items recovered, 27 items were determined to be non-AUES related cannonball fragments.

Several investigation efforts have been conducted on approximately 12 acres of the American University campus including, but not limited to, areas around the American University intramural athletic fields, Child Development Center, Kreeger Hall, the American University radio tower, the Kreeger Music Roadway, and Nebraska Avenue Parking Lot. Most of the anomalies were identified as buried utilities, cultural items, and general construction debris. A total of two munitions debris items were recovered from these areas.

3.2.6 American University Investigations

One of the major investigation efforts conducted in the SV FUDS was located on the southwestern edge of the American University campus and behind residential properties on

Rockwood Parkway. The investigations in this area, conducted in several phases, began in 2000 and were completed in June 2010.

The first investigation was conducted in what was called the Small Disposal Area where approximately 44 cubic yards of soil and some glass and metal debris were removed. The soil and debris were tested, and no chemical agent was detected. Following confirmation samples of the excavated area, clean soil was placed and restoration of the site was completed in 2001.

Starting in 2002, arsenic contaminated soil removal and geophysical anomaly investigations began in the area referred to as Lot 18. During the investigation a significant amount of debris including domestic trash, AUES-related laboratory glassware and inert munitions debris was recovered. The investigation was expanded to fully investigate and remove the apparent debris area and continued into mid-2003 as a low probability investigation [term used to mean an area unlikely to contain MEC or chemical warfare materiel (CWM)]. In mid-2003 a bottle that had been recovered from Lot 18 was identified as containing a small amount of chemical agent (0.3 percent lewisite). The discovery of the container with the lewisite solution changed the protocols used to ensure safety during the investigation from low-probability to high probability; referring to the level of probability finding an item that poses either a chemical or explosive hazard during the course of the investigation.

In 2004 the USACE completed revisions to its site safety and work plans and returned to the site to continue the investigation under high probability protocols, digging under a sealed tent with redundant filtration systems and air monitoring. At the completion of the high probability investigation in January 2006, a total of 4,500 tons of soil, 111 munitions debris items, and 71 intact containers had been removed. One intact container was determined to contain a 0.28 ppm concentration of mustard agent and mustard ABPs and two containers contained ABPs.

Following the completion of the high probability investigation, additional soil sampling and removal surrounding the high probability investigation area, and additional low probability geophysical anomaly investigations were conducted in 2006. During the geophysical anomaly investigations, a total of eight munitions debris items and two intact containers were recovered, in addition to a large amount of debris and broken glassware. No chemical agent or ABPs were detected in the debris and containers.

The debris identified during the 2006 low probability soil removals and investigations extended toward the American University Public Safety Building. Throughout the Lot 18 investigations, extremely wet soil was encountered. As a result, additional planning was required to safe guard the structural integrity of the Public Safety Building as the soil and debris was fully excavated up to the foundation of the building. With an approved plan in place, excavations around the Public Safety Building were conducted, starting in June 2008 and completed in June 2010. At the completion of the work, a total of 62 munitions debris items, six intact containers and more than 400 pounds of AUES-related intact and broken glassware debris were recovered. No chemical agents or ABPs were detected during this low probability effort.

Ground scaring and disturbed vegetation were also indicated on area photographs on the American University Kreeger Hall Area. In May 2011, a geophysical survey was conducted at American University Kreeger Hall Area to locate and map electromagnetic and magnetic anomalies. Based on the geophysical survey results, 18 single-item anomalies and four anomalous areas were selected for investigation and subsequently investigated in 2012. No

MEC, munitions debris items or other AUES-related items were encountered during the investigations.

3.2.7 Sub-Slab Soil Gas Investigations

Sub-slab soil gas samples were collected from beneath the basement slabs of two Rockwood Parkway properties adjacent to and owned by American University in 2004. The objective of this sampling investigation was to determine whether past AUES-related activities have impacted the indoor air quality of the residences that were sampled. These properties were located in proximity to several SV FUDS investigations. An additional sample was collected from a basement of a building in an area outside of the SV FUDS boundary for comparison. The data indicated that the properties are not impacted with any WWI-related contamination.

Another soil gas sampling event took place at 4825 Glenbrook Road in early 2007. One soil gas screening sample located in the driveway indicated a detection of mustard ABPs. Eight confirmatory soil samples were collected at the same location. Mustard ABPs were not detected in any of the soil samples.

3.2.8 4825 Glenbrook Road Investigations and Remedial Actions

A geophysical survey was conducted in 1999 at 4825 Glenbrook Road, directly adjacent to the property where Pits 1 and 2 were being excavated. While the survey did not indicate possible related munitions burial pits, like Pits 1 and 2, the survey did not rule out the concern amongst stakeholders that non-metallic hazardous materials remained at the property. Arsenic soil sampling was conducted in 2000 and follow-on soil removal from 25 (20 by 20) foot grids was conducted between September and March 2001.

The EPA's Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC) reviewed numerous historical aerial photographs of the Spring Valley area where several disturbed areas on the 4825 Glenbrook Road property were identified. In response to this review, the USACE conducted a test pit investigation in 2001, in conjunction with the arsenic contaminated soil removal. During the investigation of one test pit, Test Pit 23, AUES-related munitions items and glassware were identified. Following the discovery of these items from Test Pit 23, the investigation continued as a high probability effort under a Vapor Containment Structure from May 2001 to March 2002. In March 2002, the USACE was required to demobilize from the property when the property owner did not renew permission to access the property. Prior to demobilization from the property, a total of 18 CWM items, including one 75mm MEC item containing arsine and 406 munitions related items (including both MEC and munitions debris) were recovered and safely removed from the property. Glassware was also recovered during the investigation, and several containers were found to contain chemical ABPs.

The USACE negotiated access with the new property owner, American University, and in 2006, began planning to return to the property to continue the investigation. Starting in October 2007, the high probability investigation known as Burial Pit 3 was conducted under an Engineering Control Structure (ECS). Metallic anomalies on the eastern sidewall of the excavation area and beyond the perimeter of the ECS could not be resolved; therefore an additional extension was built to further investigate the area east of the original ECS footprint. The ECS was extended two additional times prior to completion of the high probability munitions investigation in March 2009. One extension was added to the southern ECS wall to investigate single item anomalies identified during a previous geophysical survey along the District of Columbia right-of-way and

one additional extension was built to the east to investigate an unresolved metallic anomaly located outside of the footprint for the first east extension of the ECS. A total of 22 MEC, six CWM items, and 80 munitions debris items were recovered during the Burial Pit 3 Investigation. Elevated levels of several metals including aluminum, arsenic, cobalt, iron, magnesium, mercury, and vanadium, were identified in the soil that was removed during the investigation. Samples from the remaining soil confirmed that no elevated levels of metals were present at the completion of the investigation.

In addition to the high probability Burial Pit 3 Investigation, 41 test pits were excavated under low probability protocols and three test pits were excavated under high probability protocols. In March 2010, a bottle with arsenic trichloride was found during the high probability test pit investigations. This unexpected discovery halted the work at the property and initiated the decision to separate the property from the rest of the SV FUDS.

AUES related waste, including 24 CWM items, more than 500 munitions related items, 400 pounds of laboratory glassware and 100 tons of contaminated soil, have been recovered and safely removed from the property during investigations from 2000-2002 and then again from 2007-2010.

In August 2010, several agencies within the DoD as well as the regulatory partners, the USEPA Region III and the DDOE, made the decision to separate the 4825 Glenbrook Road property from the overall SV FUDS to expedite the cleanup process.

After thorough reviews and a public comment period, the USACE, with concurrence from the Spring Valley Partners and American University (property owner), selected the alternative to remove the house, cleanup, and restore the property to residential standards, providing for unrestricted future use of the property. This approach is the most effective and protective of human health and the environment.

With an approved Work Plan for the remedial action at 4825 Glenbrook Road, the house was removed in November 2012. Low probability efforts began in January 2013 and included excavation of remaining 11 test pits located in the backyard and utility relocations necessary to prepare for the high probability excavations. High probability work began in September 2013 under the first of three ECS locations planned for the excavations at the property. The ECS is a 60'x80'x27' tent that fully encloses the high probability excavation areas and is supported by a chemical agent filtration system that will filter the air leaving the control structure, and a continuous air monitoring system. As with all previous high probability efforts, USACE established a Shelter-in-Place program, which will continue until the conclusion of high probability efforts.

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4.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

4.1 Community Description

The neighborhoods included in the SV FUDS encompass about 1,600 private properties, including foreign properties; and a number of churches; as well institutions such as Sibley Memorial Hospital, American University, and Wesley Seminary in suburban Washington D.C. There are also a number of foreign embassies, small businesses, including stores, restaurants and medical offices. The average property value is around \$2,000,000. The residents are upper-middle income and above professionals. The age of the population varies from seniors to younger working families with small children.

Subpopulations include: the college-age students, faculty and staff of the educational institutions; domestic workers, such as housekeepers, child care and lawn care workers.

4.2 History of Community Involvement

During Phase I of OSR, residents in the immediate vicinity of the initial emergency response site at 52nd Court organized the Spring Valley Homeowners Group, which was a committee of the Spring Valley/Wesley Heights Citizens Association. During the subsequent OSR investigations, additional groups were formed to represent the interest and concerns of the residents in each of the eight work zones. The “zone captains” were residents who volunteered to act as liaisons between USACE and the other residents of the work zone. During this initial emergency phase of the project, which lasted about a month, there were community meetings every evening, and each zone captain would attend and represented the zone to the Army.

The Public Involvement and Response Program was developed in March 1993 with the start of the OSR Remedial Investigation, in compliance with CERCLA requirements for public involvement. The program provided a mechanism for two-way communication and the exchange of information among the USACE, local residents, the diverse federal/city/local officials and agencies and the news media during the OSR.

As additional remedial investigation efforts began in 1998, USACE reestablished the public involvement program and expanded outreach efforts from the OSR. The Public Involvement Plan now known as this CRP, identified the need for current Community Outreach efforts, including the establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), and has been updated periodically in subsequent years.

4.3 Community Health Studies

4.3.1 ATSDR Health Consultations

The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has conducted seven focused health consultations related to the SV FUDS (1997 (2), 2000 (2), 2001, 2003, and 2005). Consultations have been requested in response to community concerns with arsenic exposure in soil, indoor air quality, and overall community health. ATSDR's Public Health Evaluation for the Spring Valley Community published in 2005 provided the first community-wide health evaluation. The community health evaluation concluded that residents in Spring Valley have not and will not experience adverse health effects due to AUES activities.

4.3.2 **Johns Hopkins Health Scoping Study**

Starting in March 2006, health researchers with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health conducted a health scoping study for the Spring Valley project area under contract with the DC DOH. This study was initiated in response to community concerns regarding the completeness of the 2005 ATSDR Health Evaluation. The study, published in 2007, found that the overall health of Spring Valley residents is very good.

4.3.3 **Johns Hopkins Health Study Scoping Study – Part II**

In July 2013, health researchers with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health released an additional health scoping study report for the Spring Valley project area under contract with the DC DOH. The purpose of the study was to follow up on issues raised in the 2007 study report and document any community concerns and potential health impacts from the SV FUDS. The report noted that the overall health of Spring Valley residents continues to be very good and mortality rates continue to be below the United States average for most causes.

4.4 **Community Relations Program Activities to Date**

Based on the issues and concerns identified by the community as part of previous CRP updates, a number of communication methods and techniques have been used to implement the community relations program:

- Community meetings —USACE holds community-wide public meetings to explain major project activities, finds, or milestones; and listen to public concerns. Community meetings have been held at least once each year.
- Restoration Advisory Board — A RAB was established in May 2001 in response to community interest expressed during the development of the CRP. The board comprises 18 community members, and includes a community co-chair, a government co-chair, and representatives from the regulatory agencies and certain stakeholders. The community members were selected by fellow community members to serve on the board. The board met monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at a local church until May 2013 when the RAB revised the meeting frequency to every other month on the odd months. Meetings are open to the public.
- Availability sessions — An availability session was established in September 2004 for the half-hour before the RAB meetings to provide a regularly scheduled opportunity when community members could talk informally with USACE and regulatory agency team members.
- Small group meetings — Because of the complexity of this cleanup, the USACE often meets with small groups of residents to gain a better understanding of their concerns and provide specific information to address upcoming work activities. Small group meetings have been held with residents to discuss the arsenic soil Time Critical Removal Action, Sedgwick Trench investigation, other soil removals, Lot 18, Burial Pit 3 Investigation and 4825 Glenbrook Road cleanup.
- One-on-one meetings, telephone conversations and e-mail messages — USACE maintains an open-door policy and regularly meets with officials and residents about issues related to the investigation. Hundreds of one-on-one meetings with residents were held during the course of the Time Critical Removal Action, Non Time Critical Removal

Action, and residential munitions investigations as well as during groundwater study efforts. Members of the project team frequently initiate or respond to phone calls and e-mail messages with individual community members to provide information, answer questions or address concerns.

- Newsletter — Since the start of the follow-on investigation in 1998, the USACE has produced and distributed the project newsletter, *The Corps'pondent*. The newsletter reports current and upcoming project activities. As many as 11 issues have been produced in one year. Currently, the newsletter is published about three times a year. Each issue is mailed to about 2,000 residents and other stakeholders and is also posted on the project's website. In addition, the newsletter is mailed to a supplemental list that includes team members from the three partnering agencies and others with addresses outside the project boundaries who have expressed an interest in the cleanup.
- Monthly project update — A one-page e-mail project update is sent to elected officials, RAB members and other active stakeholders. It is also posted on the Spring Valley project website and neighborhood Yahoo group websites.
- Website — With the follow-on investigation in 1998, the USACE established a project website, <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx>. Meeting minutes, presentations, fact sheets, news releases and other public information are routinely posted on the web site. All materials posted to this site are reviewed to ensure they meet information security requirements put into place following the events of 9-11. Selected archived Spring Valley project documents are now on a Google site: <http://springvalley.ertcorp.com/>.
- News media — News releases and public notices are used to inform the residents and the general public of project activities through print, broadcast and social media. Media tours are held to announce significant project activities. For large events (i.e. the on-site destruction of munitions, or demolition of the house 4825 Glenbrook Rd), USACE coordinates with the Public Affairs Working Group, comprised of Spring Valley Partnership agencies' communication specialists, to collaboratively plan media announcements and major events.
- Letters — Thousands of letters have been sent to residents and property owners explaining sampling results, upcoming work activities, new project information, or any information that affects a targeted audience, i.e., residential soil removals, geophysical surveys, the range fan, etc.
- Fact sheets — Throughout the course of the project, several fact sheets have been developed and offered for distribution to provide specific information. Examples of subjects covered include munitions, safety, arsenic contaminated soil removal, phytoremediation, various major investigation summaries, and community involvement opportunities. These fact sheets may also be provided in Spanish.
- Toll-free information line — In 1998, a telephone message board was established at the USACE, Baltimore District Public Affairs Office. The number is 1-800-434-0988. Pressing option 3 will transfer callers to the Spring Valley community outreach office.
- 24-hour hotline – In 2008, the toll free number 1-888-393-0059, was established. An operator will answer this number 24 hours per day, take down the information, and will

call project personnel until someone is reached. The project personnel contact will respond directly to the caller.

- Administrative Record File and Information Repository — An Administrative Record File is maintained at the USACE Baltimore District offices, 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, MD. A public document Information Repository is located at the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Public Library, 4450 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, D.C. Information on the 1993-95 OSR investigation, as well as current information, is available at the repository.

In conjunction with the above communications tools — notably e-mail messages, news releases and the website — the team has developed a number of distribution lists to serve the cleanups needs. Appendix G delineates the plan for the distribution lists and their respective uses.

4.5 Media Coverage Activities to Date

Since the first munitions find in 1993, media coverage of the Spring Valley FUDS has been extensive. Throughout the duration of the project, every major media outlet in the Washington D.C. area has covered the story from many angles. Some national publications, such as the LA Times and NY Times, also published articles on the project. Overall, the coverage has been balanced and at times helped inform the community.

During the past two decades, media has shifted from traditional media outlets (newspaper, TV and radio) to websites and social media (blogs, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). This shift has given rise to more far reaching media coverage as news stories are shared online. The advent of the internet also increased the speed that news reaches the community, with information being shared as it happens. Additionally, citizens now can perform the role of traditional journalists by writing their own online pieces about the Spring Valley project. This nuance provides different perspectives about the project.

As the CERCLA process continues at the SV FUDS media coverage also will persist and serve as a communication tool for the community.

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5.0 COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

5.1 Previous Community Interviews

Some of the concerns expressed by the community during the initial return to the Spring Valley neighborhood in 1998 are as follows:

- The neighborhood still contains contamination; soil sampling was not adequate.
- Unhappy about the disruption the work will cause.
- Concerns about the rate of cancer in the Spring Valley neighborhood. Some residents have said that a comparison of numbers of people with cancer in Spring Valley and a comparable community in the United States should be made.
- Concern about the DC DOH report and the information presented about their community.

Some of the concerns expressed since the start of the follow-on investigation in 1998 are as follows:

- Concerns about real estate values.
- Concerns about the potential duration of the project.
- Concerns about health risks despite the positive results of health studies by DDOE, EPA, ATSDR and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School.

In 2005, the USACE mailed a 13-question community survey to 1,305 Spring Valley addresses. Responses that were received and logged into a database totaled 222, for a 17 percent return rate.

The key community concerns expressed in the 2005 survey responses were similar to earlier surveys:

- Speed and thoroughness of cleanup.
- Safety and health of the community.
- Property values.
- Accuracy and honesty of information from the USACE.
- Noise, traffic and disruption from the cleanup work.

The types of information respondents requested included:

- Overall schedule information.
- Specific locations of work being done.
- Summaries of work, looking back and looking forward.
- Health information.

A majority of respondents (132) rated the quantity of information now received as about right. The almost universally preferred method for receiving information was by mail. A wide variety of responses were received to a question asking how often respondents would like to receive information. Responses that indicated more often than the then bi-monthly mode were 53. Responses that indicated less often were 84. Responses that indicated the same as now were 17.

The information sources most relied upon were:

- Letters from the USACE (186 responses = 84 percent);
- The Northwest Current (179 = 81 percent);
- The Corps' pondent (177 = 80 percent); and
- The Washington Post (147 = 66 percent).

Moderately popular sources of information were:

- Discussion with other community members (74 = 33 percent);
- USACE fact sheets (73 = 33 percent);
- Community-wide meetings (56 = 25 percent); and the
- Spring Valley website (45 = 20 percent).

Sources of information used to a lesser extent were:

- TV news (37 = 17 percent);
- Phone conversations with the USACE (36 = 16 percent);
- Regulatory agencies (27 = 12 percent);
- Radio news (23 = 10 percent); and the
- Restoration Advisory Board (21 = 9 percent).
- Several other sources had a 5 percent or less response.

5.2 2013 Community Interviews

The Spring Valley Community Outreach team conducted community interviews in August and September 2013. These interviews provided feedback from the community on the USACE outreach efforts to date, the concerns and needs of the residents, and how to best continue to engage and provide information to SV FUDS community stakeholders.

5.2.1 Community Interview Approach

Fifty-five stakeholders were contacted to participate in the interview process. Stakeholders who are represented with these interviews include residents with properties, which underwent one or more project activities such as soil sampling, geophysical surveys, contaminated soil removal, munitions investigations, groundwater sampling, and surface water sampling. Stakeholders also include current and past RAB members, local elected officials, Spring Valley realtors, and other local interested parties. Of the 55 interviewees who were contacted, full or partial responses were obtained from 30 individuals. Five general categories of questions were posed during interviews:

- Awareness of Current and Previous Investigations;
- Opinions and Concerns about the Project;
- Interests in Information;
- Methods of Communication; and
- Level of Community Involvement.

Not all interviewees responded to all questions because some questions were not applicable since experiences with the USACE and level of involvement in the Spring Valley project varies. Therefore, not all interviews reflect responses to interview questionnaire developed to guide the interviews (Appendix I).

5.2.2 Results of Community Interviews

In general, interview participants are familiar with the history of the SV FUDS and the reason for munitions investigations, soil sampling, and contaminated soil removal in the Spring Valley neighborhood. Participants generally have a favorable opinion of the investigation and removal of any potential hazards, and expressed little or no concern about the investigations. The primary concerns voiced by participants are the long duration of the project, the effects on property values, and the communication of risk. The current community concerns are similar to concerns identified during previous community interview efforts.

Participants noted that the level of interest in the project is varied, but relatively low, as many of the residents only take interest in their own property. Responses reflect that the community is overall satisfied with the current level and frequency of information being provided regarding the project and expressed the most interest in learning about how USACE plans to ensure that the project is complete and how this completion is communicated to the public. Several participants suggested that a comprehensive project summary be attached to the recently developed project timeline to illustrate where the project started and how much has been accomplished. Generally, participants agreed that the current level of community involvement, including reading the quarterly newsletters, having contact with the Community Outreach team and USACE project leaders, and attending public meetings, is appropriate. Responses indicate that while the type of information requested is changing as the CERCLA process progresses at the SV FUDS, the overall current methods of communication to the SV FUDS community continue to be appropriate.

5.2.2.1 *Awareness of Current and Previous Investigations*

The majority of participants indicated they are familiar with past and present investigations and cleanup activities in the Spring Valley neighborhood and cited one or more of the following as their primary source of information: *The Corps'pondent* (quarterly newsletter), local knowledge (i.e., what neighbors have said), project personnel, public RAB and community meetings, public notices, and news media. *The Corps'pondent* was the most cited source of information, closely followed by news media and agency-related outreach efforts (public notices, public meetings, or project personnel). The Information Repository at the local public library was the least cited source of project information. Only one participant commented that they read the local Yahoo! Groups posting.

Awareness of current and previous investigations include awareness of investigations done on individual properties and on the project site overall. Only one respondent expressed no knowledge of the current project efforts, believing that the project had been over for some time. Several participants made recommendations on what information would be pertinent for the public, including where the Spring Valley project is in the CERCLA process, what it means when the USACE leaves the project site and how the USACE plans to keep lines of communication open with the public. A few participants expressed concern that the realtors who work in the SV FUDS need to be better informed about past and present investigations, what the

FUDS boundary is, and what letters need to be disclosed to a buyer to avoid misinformation about risk.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to project awareness:

- I believe I know more than I think I know, even though I may not be able to recite all the specific information ...USACE has become more open over time. Anyone who has a question has access to them.
- Frankly, I thought the Army Corps was done... I thought this whole thing was [complete].
- I feel as though the Corps has covered the project topics like a blanket.

5.2.2.2 *Opinions and Concerns about the Project*

Participants were asked about their overall opinions and concerns over the way the SV FUDS project is being handled. The majority of respondents consider the project to have gone smoothly, overall, yet they feel as though the project has taken too long. Opinions were voiced about the USACE, the RAB, the duration of the project, and what will happen when the project is complete.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to community opinions:

- Overall, the community thinks that the Spring Valley project is taking too long. Some people do not trust the Army, while others think that they have done a great job.
- I would like to see the RAB members better prepared for the meeting discussions, which I think would lead to better questions, curiosity, and information collection from USACE during the meetings.
- Some things that the Army Corps did were not perfect, but they bent over backwards to fix them. They did a very professional job. They were cognizant of issues and corrected them.
- People feel blessed to have these clean-up activities happening in their neighborhood. It is a wonderful advantage and everyone has been so nice. People feel like the restoration is all taken care of and that there is nothing for them to worry about.

Interview participants were also asked about their personal and possible community concerns in relation to the SV FUDS project. Respondents provided a wide variety of possible community concerns, including those voiced as individual concerns: the level of realtor knowledge about current and past Spring Valley projects and processes; the Army's due diligence over the course of the project; education for new families moving into the neighborhood; liability; and the effect of the project on human health and property values.

Respondents also noted that others in the community either have no concerns, are ignorant of project activities, do not think there is a problem and therefore do not think the lengthy investigation is necessary, or are concerned about property damage as a result of investigations. One respondent's opinion is that the arsenic contaminated soil removal investigations were a poor use of the government's time and funding.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to community concerns:

- I believe that the potential health risk of living in Spring Valley will always be a concern to some community members, despite the health studies.
- Potential buyers may have misinformation [about risk] and are scared until they have more information.
- We believe that the community concern is mainly safety. Yet, we feel as though the Corps is handling safety above and beyond our expectations. We see that they [the Army] are doing a good job – they are just taking a long time to complete this project!
- The Johns Hopkins University studies have not shown any significant data. However, people in the neighborhood still question growing vegetables on their land. I'm concerned that some people in the community will never believe that their health has not been affected [by the project].
- The community members need assurance that the SV FUDS is all cleaned up, with the caveat that if something is found, the Army will come back and finish the job. It is important for the community to feel comfortable that this site is cleaned up.
- The Corps need to ensure that they are not giving the community a sense of abandonment by simply saying they are finished with the project – 'goodbye.'

5.2.2.3 *Interests in Information*

Participants were asked a variety of questions related to information accessibility, including what project information they are interested in receiving and how they prefer to receive project information. The majority of respondents expressed that they are adequately informed about the investigations (especially when it pertained to their own property), are not interested in obtaining more information, and know sources to obtain current project information if needed. Respondents noted that the community information interests are mostly focused on their own properties' results of the investigations and the project progress. One respondent noted that he/she would like to be added to the monthly email list to receive routine monthly updates and announcements.

Participants were most interested in learning more about the history of the site and the project investigation. They suggested the creation of a narrative history document to go along with the project timeline developed in 2013. They want this historical timeline to answer questions like: What caused the issues USACE came across while cleaning up the Spring Valley FUDS? How did the project get to where it is now? Has the site been cleaned up to this date? How? What has been accomplished and what are the risks of those living in Spring Valley? A few participants wanted to learn more about the CERCLA process and the remedial investigation process.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to community interest in, and accessibility to, project information:

- From now on, the Corps could make a better distinction between past and current exposure to help satisfy those concerns.
- I think that the Corps should produce a document where every part of the 20-year project is understandably [i.e. in laymen's terms] written out in order to dispel lingering rumors of continued contamination...I would like to know more about the history of Spring

Valley. Being able to learn more about the project and site history may help people understand why the Army is here and what is happening in the context of US History...with the main questions being: How did we get to be here today?

- ... [M]ore information on the CERCLA process would be a good addition by illustrating a broader context with the law. This will be helpful because many community members do not understand what has taken so long to accomplish this project.
- The Army Corps has a responsibility to let the public know that the current status of the project is not what it was 20 years ago - things are much calmer now and much work has been accomplished.

Several participants expressed interest in a big final meeting when the project comes to a close. They believe that this would be appropriate and a good way to share final information about how to contact the USACE once they leave the site and give the community reassurance about the progress they accomplished since 1993.

5.2.2.4 *Methods of Communication*

As part of the interviews, participants were asked how they would like to be contacted regarding project efforts, and were asked to offer suggestions on how the USACE can most effectively disseminate information to the community.

When asked how they prefer to receive project information, the majority of respondents noted that they would prefer email updates, followed by the *Corps'pondent*, one-on-one conversations with project staff, and lastly postings on the project website. Several participants also gain information through outside media sources, like the *Northwest Current*.

Preferences for finding project information vary. A majority of participants responded they do not seek out information about the project anymore. Several participants said that if they are interested, they can receive information by calling the Community Outreach Team. One participant said he/she likes the new Information Repository location at the Tenley-Friendship Library, indicating that he/she has visited the location at least once. A few participants said they refer, and refer others, to the project website if they have a question.

Several participants provided suggestions on what other communication methods could be used. One common response is that the USACE could engage the press more and work with the *Northwest Current*. Other suggestions for additional outreach include sending representatives to meetings of local organizations, hosting local seminars about different aspects of the project, and providing briefings for realtors working in Spring Valley.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to methods of communication:

- I have no problems with the current outreach methods... The Army Corps team has been good at communicating.
- ...Army Corps Outreach articles in the *Northwest Current* would be helpful to get more information out to a greater number of residents since many Spring Valley residents read the *Northwest Current* regularly.
- *The Corps'pondent* use to be bad [with too much army jargon], but now it so much better. The website is good with all of the pictures, clear information, and easy links.

- We believe that the reason we are not seeing a lot of people at RAB or community meetings is because USACE is doing a really good job at communicating... One example of great communication is *The Corps' pondent*. To effectively communicate to this community is a big deal. It brings a sense of connection – community members feel like they can call with any questions... An important piece that enhances this project is the knowledge that community members have access to information and the Community Outreach team.
- Overall, I receive a steady flow of information about the project. I think [the Army Corps is] doing a good job and their responsiveness is excellent. Their responses to community inquiries are quick and readily available ... A 'bright spot' of the Spring Valley project is the personnel – they go out of their way to help.
- Every piece of information that is sent out to the public should have a source of information: i.e. a link to the website and/or Army Corps and Community Outreach phone numbers. Produce a summary document that reviews all the ways to communicate with the USACE/Outreach team, especially once you are gone.

5.2.2.5 *Level of Community Involvement*

Interview participants were asked several questions regarding the current level of community involvement and whether additional participation is necessary at this time. More than half of respondents replied that the current level of community involvement is adequate and noted that, in general, the community is not interested in more involvement. A couple respondents said that most Spring Valley residents were mostly interested in involvement because of sampling and remediation done on their own property. Most respondents noted that they were involved with the project while their property was being remediated and the frequency/amount of information they received, and level of involvement in the planning was good. Another respondent stated that additional involvement would only be necessary if the community feels impacted by the investigation, which is mostly complete at this time.

Respondents were provided with a list of possible options to get community participation and asked their preference. These options included providing opportunities to give written comments about the site, holding public meetings where one could voice their comments about the site, providing opportunities to meet and talk informally with project staff and/or independent experts, and a toll free number where one could call with comments. Several respondents did not select any of the listed options and instead reemphasized that there is no need for more participation at this time. Of the listed options, the respondents most often chose public meetings as the best way for the USACE to get community participation. A few participants noted that they learn more when listening to other community member's questions, the answers they receive, and discussions they start at public meetings. Other options selected by one respondent each included: continuing to provide opportunities for the community to informally discuss community concerns with project staff, and providing opportunities to talk with independent experts.

The following are excerpts from interview discussions relating to the level of community involvement:

- For us, it is interesting to hear what other neighbors, and people outside of the neighborhood, have to say at the meetings. USACE allows many viewpoints to be

expressed by giving anyone in the public the opportunity to provide feedback, to clear up rumors, and give a voice to those who are truly affected by the project. During the meeting, all questions are heard and well answered. The meetings that we attended gave us a chance to see the Army Corps' plan... and it pleased us that our opinions were heard.

- There are groups in the community on different sides of the project involvement spectrum. I have noticed that community involvement is limited when meetings have been held at Horace Mann, and most individuals who attend are not even Horace Mann parents.
- If a community member wants something, they have the freedom and comfort to contact the Army Corps team for answers. The information on the Spring Valley project is out there and readily available... anyone can get engaged and involved if they chose.

Interview participants were asked their preferences for when and where meetings could be held. The majority of respondents confirmed that the United Methodist Church is a good location for holding public meetings, because of its location, plentiful parking, and recognition since most of the residents vote there. Other suggestions for meeting locations include American University, Horace Mann Elementary, Wesley Seminary, and St. David's Episcopal Church. Preferences for when to hold meetings include Monday through Thursday, in the evenings around 7 PM; however one couple said they prefer that meetings be held on a Saturday.

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6.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

6.1 Goals of Community Relations

The SV CRP is a living document, which means it will always be updated, re-approached, and adapted to changing community needs. Previous CRPs for the SV FUDS outlined major goals for the community relations program, including:

- Ensure the public appropriate opportunities for involvement in a wide variety of site related decisions;
- Determine, based on [past] community interviews, appropriate activities to ensure such public involvement; and
- Provide opportunities for the community to learn about the site.

A series of community relations activities were established to address these goals. These specific community outreach activities are outlined under Section 4.4. Feedback from the participants of the recent community interviews confirmed that existing community relations program activities remain effective.

Based upon responses received during the 2013 community interviews, the SV community is generally pleased with the current mechanisms for community outreach and involvement. The USACE will continue the program described in Section 4.4, while tailoring objectives for content and availability of outreach to certain groups to address concerns and information requests gathered during the community interviews. These objectives include:

- To increase education on CERCLA and where/how the SV FUDS fits in to the process.
- Increase awareness of the project facts in the Spring Valley realtor community.
- Ensure continued access to USACE points of contact and project information following project completion.
- Maintain the same level of outreach and transparency to the community.

A series of additional community relations objectives have been developed after recent community interview were conducted. This section will explain the existing activities that will be used to achieve objectives and address ongoing and new concerns/feedback.

6.1.1 **Increase education on CERCLA and where/how the SV FUDS fits in the process.**

Based upon responses received during the 2013 community interviews, community members are interested in learning more about the CERCLA process. Responses provided during interviews made it apparent that the CERCLA process and where the SV FUDS stands in the CERCLA process is not widely known. Many participants in the interview process expressed an interest in learning more about the CERCLA process, especially as the project come to a close.

In support of this objective, the following activities will be implemented:

- **Factsheets:** Continue to update and distribute factsheets to the community via the Information Repository (IR) at the local public library, the project website, RAB meetings, and community meetings.

- **CRP:** Announce when the updated CRP is posted to the website; via emails to the community, RAB meetings, and monthly updates. The CRP has information about CERCLA, its amendments, and the history of the work done at SV FUDS.
- **Public Meetings:** Public meetings held during the CERCLA process will educate the public on the CERCLA process. The public meetings are planned to be held during the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan comment period, and Decision Document to guide the public through the process.
- **Corps'pondent:** Use the *Corps'pondent* to distribute information on the CERCLA process, regular updates on the SV FUDS, and to relay the information about public meetings.

USACE and the Outreach team responded to this request in advance of this updated CRP. Information about the CERCLA process was added to the January 2014 *Corps'pondent* newsletter. The information on the CERCLA process written for the January 2014 *Corps'pondent* was also used to develop a factsheet, which was distributed at a RAB meeting, the Information Repository, and the project website. This factsheet will be updated as we progress through the CERCLA process.

6.1.2 Increase awareness of the SV FUDS in the Spring Valley realtor community.

Another concern voiced during the 2013 community interviews is that the local realtors have misinformation about the project. A few participants expressed concern that the realtors who work in SV need to be better informed about past and present investigations, what the FUDS boundary is, and what letters need to be disclosed to a buyer to ensure complete information specific to each property is conveyed. In an effort to educate the local realtor community on SV FUDS activities and consequently potential new property owners, the following actions are planned:

- **Small Group Meeting:** Hold an educational/informative small group meeting/presentation/discussion for Spring Valley realtors with USACE and the Community Outreach team to answer realtor questions.
- **Factsheet:** Develop a factsheet that includes realtor specific contacts and links to commonly requested project information. Distribute factsheets to the community via the IR at the local public library, the project website, RAB meetings, and community meetings.

6.1.3 Ensure continued access to USACE points of contact and project information following project completion.

Community members interviewed noted that while they receive enough information about the project, or know where to find the information if needed, the concern was expressed that new families that move into the neighborhood after the completion of the project should still have the ability for a community member to contact the USACE with questions or for additional information. In an effort to support this objective, the following actions are planned:

- **Factsheet:** Develop one factsheet that lists the questions most likely to be asked following completion of the project and provides available information resources and points of contacts.

- Produce a comprehensive historical narrative video to go along with the recently developed project timeline to illustrate where the project started at the American University Experiment Station and what has been accomplished during the subsequent FUDS clean-up efforts.
- **Website:** Maintain the USACE SV FUDS website. Clearly designate contacts and information resources on the SV FUDS project website. Routinely update the factsheet for posting on the website. Provide directions for accessing key project documents most likely to be requested following project completion.
 - FUDS projects are subject to 5-year reviews after the Decision Document is signed. During these times, the community will be notified that the 5-year review is being conducted and its results.
- **Public Meetings/RAB meetings:** In advance of completion of the SV FUDS project provide informational factsheets to stakeholders during meetings and work to incorporate additional suggestions for continued access to project information following project completion.
 - Hold a final public meeting/open house once the Decision Document is signed.
- **Corps'pondent/Email Updates:** Distribute factsheet information via the *Corps'pondent* newsletter and email communications.

6.1.4 **Continue to engage and maintain the same level of outreach and transparency to the community.**

Overall, the SV community is generally pleased with the level of outreach the USACE has made available. A few participants touched on the importance of communication between the USACE and the community. They felt that the current level of information was appropriate and appreciated. USACE and the Community Outreach team will continue implementation of the community relations program described in Section 4.4 which includes:

- Community meetings;
- Restoration Advisory Board;
- Availability sessions;
- Small group meetings;
- One-on-one meetings, telephone conversations and e-mail messages;
- Newsletter;
- Monthly project update;
- Website;
- News media;
- Letters;
- Fact sheets;
- Toll-free information line;

- 24-hour hotline; and
- Administrative Record and Information Repository.

6.2 Federal and State Guidance Documents

The following federal and state environmental statutes and amendments require community relations activities for hazardous waste site:

- CERCLA, 1980 (42 United States Code 9601, and following section), also known as Superfund.
- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), which amended CERCLA.
- Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act of 1992 (CERFA), which also amended CERCLA.

The guidelines for conducting community relation activities, including preparing a CRP, are described in the following publications:

- [Superfund Community Involvement Handbook](#) (EPA, 2005)
- [Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit](#) (EPA, 2005)

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7.0 REFERENCES

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D. December 24, 2013. Internet address:

<http://anc3d.org/commissioners.html>

Realtor, National Association of Realtors. Internet address: http://www.realtor.com/local/Spring-Valley_Washington_DC/lifestyle

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Engineering Pamphlet 1110-3-8, *Public Participation in the DERP for FUDS*, 9 April 2004. Internet address:

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Portals/37/docs/civilworks/projects/nj/fuds/Raritan/ep1110-3-8.pdf>

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey. American FactFinder. Internet address: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

United States Environmental Protection Agency, December 2011. CERCLA Overview. Internet address: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm>

United States Environmental Protection Agency, December 2011. SARA Overview. Internet address: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/sara.htm>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), April 2005. Community Involvement plans. Internet address:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/pdfs/toolkit/ciplans.pdf>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), April 2005. Superfund Community Involvement Handbook. Internet address:

http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/ci_handbook.pdf

APPENDIX A

Appendix A - Administrative Record and Information Repository

Administrative Record:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
10 South Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Public document repository:

Tenley-Friendship Library
4450 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
202-727-1488

APPENDIX B

Appendix B - Suggested Locations for Public Meetings

MEETING LOCATIONS

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS:

St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street NW

Alternate: Spring Valley Field Office, located on the federal property at 5201 Little Falls Road

COMMUNITY MEETINGS SITES:

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Ave NW
POC: 202-363-4900 x101

PARTNERING MEETINGS:

Spring Valley Field Office, located on the federal property at 5201 Little Falls Road

PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Spring Valley Field Office, located on the federal property at 5201 Little Falls Road

Alternate: Washington Aqueduct

Meetings to discuss urgent issues are conducted by teleconference.

APPENDIX C

Appendix C - Points of Contact

USACE AND DEPARTMENT OF ARMY CONTACTS

USACE Baltimore District Points of Contact

Point of contact for public involvement is:

USACE, Baltimore District Public Affairs, 410-962-2809

Point of contact for community outreach is:

Community Outreach, 410-962-0157

Points of contact for the projects are:

Project Manager, Engineering Division, 410-962-6782

Project Manager (HTW projects), Engineering Division, 410-962-6784

Project Manager, Engineering Division, 410-962-0030

Office of Counsel, 410-962-3385

Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, DA: 703-697-5344

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army

(Environment, Safety & Occupational Health): 703-697-3165

Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Public Affairs: 202-761-0011

North Atlantic Division Public Affairs Office: 718-765-7018

Huntsville Engineering Support Center PAO: 256-895-1691

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center PAO: 410-436-1159

Aberdeen Proving Ground PAO: 410-278-1147; 800-688-8705

REGULATORY PARTNERS

DDOE

Jim Sweeney, Environmental Health Specialist, 202-535-2289; james.sweeney@dc.gov

EPA Region III

Steve Hirsh, Senior Remediation Project Manager, 215-814-3352; Hirsh.Steven@epa.gov

PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
215-814-5527

D.C. Department of the Environment, Office of Communications & Community Relations
202-442-8150

American University
Public Information Officer, 202-885-5952, cell 202-345-3295; AUmedia@american.edu

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District Public Affairs, 410-962-2809
Headquarters Public Affairs, 202-761-0011

Sibley Memorial Hospital, Public Relations and Marketing, 202-537-4700

Chemical Materials Agency, Public Affairs, 410-436-4555

Edgewood Biological Command, Public Affairs, 410-436-7118

20th CBRNE Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high- yield
Explosives), Public Affairs, 410-436-3433

APPENDIX D

Appendix D- Area Organizations

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS

	FAX	PHONE
<u>D.C. Elected Officials</u>		
Eleanor Holmes Norton District of Columbia, Delegate 2136 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	(202) 225-3002	(202) 225-8050
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor John A. Wilson Building 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20004	(202) 727-0505	(202) 727- 6300
Mary Cheh Council Member, Ward 3 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 108 Washington, D.C. 20004 mcheh@dccouncil.us	(202) 724-8118	(202) 724-8062
<u>Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC)</u>		
ANC 3D P.O. Box 40846 Palisades Station Washington, D.C. 20016 ANC3D@hotmail.com http://anc3d.org/	(202) 363-4130	(202) 363-4130
Kent Slowinski (3D01) 3D01@anc.dc.gov		
Nan Wells (3D03) wellsleone@aol.com		(202) 362-4088
Tom Smith (3D02) tmfsmith@rcn.com		(202) 364-7130
Rory Slatko (3D07) rory.slatko@gmail.com		

Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizens' Association

Mike Mazzuchi, President mmazzuchi@cgsh.com

Jeff Kraskin jkraskin@rcn.com
Vice President (Spring Valley)

Glenn Westley
Vice President (Wesley Heights)

American University

Neil Kerwin (202) 885-3279 (202) 885-2121
American University President's Office
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
taylor@american.edu

Bethany Bridgham (202) 885-3273 (202) 885-3252
Senior Associate General Counsel
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Sibley Memorial Hospital

Caroline Legarde, Vice President for Professional
Services and Administrative Affairs (202) 660-7777

Wesley Theological Seminary

David McAllister-Wilson, President (202) 885-8605 (202) 885-8601
4500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

APPENDIX E

Appendix E - Restoration Advisory Board

POSITIONS	NAME; CONTACT INFORMATION
Government co-chair	Dan Noble, USACE Spring Valley program manager; Dan.G.Noble@usace.army.mil
Community co-chair	Greg Beumel; gbeumel@yahoo.com
Community member	Ralph Cantral; ralph.cantral@gmail.com
Community member	Mary Bresnahan; mary.bresnahan@longandfoster.com
Community member	Kathleen Connell; Kathleen.connell@att.net
Community member	William Krebs; w_krebs@msn.com
Community member	Lawrence Miller; Lawrence.miller@starpower.net
Community member	Lee Monsein; leehmonsein@yahoo.com
Community member	Malcolm Pritzker; malpritz@aol.com
Community member	Mary Steward Douglas; msdouglas3@aol.com
Community member	Tom Smith; tmfsmith@rcn.com
Community member	John Wheeler; johnwheeler.dc@gmail.com
Community member	George Vassiliou; george_vassiliou@ml.com
TAPP consultant	Peter deFur; pldefur@igc.org
American University	Linda Argo; largo@american.edu
Horace Mann School	Alma Gates; AHG71139@aol.com
DDOE	James Sweeney; james.sweeney@dc.gov
EPA	Steve Hirsh; hirsh.steven@epa.gov

APPENDIX F

WASHINGTON, D.C., MEDIA

Daily Newspapers:

Washington Post

Washington Times

Associated Press

American University Eagle

Television Stations:

Ch 7, WJLA TV

Ch 4, WRC TV

Ch 5, WTTG TV

Ch 9, WUSA TV

News Ch 8

Radio Stations:

WAMU 88.5 FM

WTOP/WASH/WMZQ

WHUR 96.3 FM

WMAL AM

WNEW FM

Periodical Publications:

The Northwest Current

Washingtonian

APPENDIX G

Appendix G - DISTRIBUTION LISTS PLAN

This plan delineates the distribution lists used by the Spring Valley team to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District is communicating with interested stakeholders effectively. The size and complexity of, along with public interest in the cleanup lead to a large number of stakeholders with diverse interest and involvement. This plan a) helps ensure that stakeholders and team members are receiving information as appropriate, and b) helps reduce or eliminate duplicate and triplicate e-mails to the same individuals.

This plan directly addresses the eight distribution lists described below and the following documents:

- RAB agendas
- RAB minutes
- Other RAB documents
- Draft and Final News Releases
- Monthly Project Updates
- Documents specific to Tier 2/Tier 3 Partnering
- Documents specific to Tier 1 Partnering meetings
- Information specific to Public Affairs Working Group interaction

The Spring Valley Team also creates distribution lists not included in this plan for specific targeted groups directly affected by a particular cleanup activity. An example is the Lot 18 NOSE (NO Significant Effects) Residents List and the Glenbrook Road Shelter-in-Place Zone Residents List.

1. **Master Distribution List** —includes:

- Elected officials (Congressional, D.C. Council and Advisory Neighborhood Commission)
- EPA Region III
- DDOE
- American University
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Baltimore, Huntsville and Headquarters)
- RAB members
- Community members who have requested electronic community updates.

Use: Distributing final news releases and final monthly project updates. Disseminating final RAB agendas, final RAB minutes and other occasional, miscellaneous final documents regarding RAB policies and efforts.

2. **Media Lists** — maintained by Public Affairs, these lists are electronic for media points of contact.

Use: Issuing final news releases to the media.

3. **Restoration Advisory Board Member List** — the list is an e-mail distribution list for RAB members.

Use: Disseminating draft and final RAB agendas, draft and final RAB minutes, any other miscellaneous draft or final documents that arise in supporting the RAB, the RAB monthly project updates and news releases. Tier 1 Partners who are also members of the RAB (Steve Hirsh, Dan Noble and Jim Sweeney) will receive monthly updates and press releases more than once, but they will know that these documents have been distributed to the RAB.

4. **Tier 1 Partnering Meeting List** — this list contains all Tier 1 Partners plus the others who attend the monthly Partnership meetings.

Use: Sending draft and final documents generated through the monthly partnering meetings, plus read-ahead materials.

This list is used **only** for documents directly related to the Tier 1 Partnering meetings.

5. **RAB & Elected Officials List** — the list contains all SV RAB members and elected officials.

Use: Sending final Partnering Agendas and final Meeting Minutes.

6. **Tier 2/Tier 3 Partners List** —this distribution list includes all identified Tier 2/Tier 3 members from EPA, DDOE, Baltimore District and Huntsville.

Use: Sending documents to support Tier 2/Tier 3 Partnering efforts.

This distribution list is **not** used for sending final news releases and monthly project updates. Tier 2/Tier 3 members are included in the Master Distribution List (#1 above).

7. **The Public Affairs Working Group (PAWG) Distribution List** — maintained by Public Affairs, this electronic distribution list includes members of the PAWG.

Use: Setting up meetings or discussing via e-mail matters in support of the PAWG.

8. **2013/2014 Glenbrook Road Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Zone Resident, RAB, and local elected officials List** — this list contains neighborhood stakeholders who are in the SIP zone for the project at 4825 Glenbrook Road and who have expressed an interest in being kept informed on the cleanup.

Use: Sending weekly project updates and other site-specific notices and updates.

APPENDIX H

Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Community Interview Questions

Purpose:

The purpose of today's discussion is to hear your opinions, beliefs, concerns, and recommendations about the Spring Valley project and community outreach methods. This information will then be used to update the Spring Valley Community Relations Plan and will inform the approach to community involvement throughout the duration of the site-wide Spring Valley project.

To ensure the project is conducted and completed in a way that meets the needs of the community, we want to discuss your previous and current experiences with the project, current opinions about the project, and any lingering concerns you may have (technical, physical, social, economic, environmental, communicative, and/or legal) that need to be addressed before the project wraps up. Additionally, to ensure outreach methods in Spring Valley meet the needs of the community, we would like to know if we have been effective at communicating project information in the past, how you receive information about the project and how you would prefer to receive information, and any recommendations you may have as to the medium and frequency used to distribute project information going forward.

Background:

As you may know, for approximately 20 years the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been identifying and removing World War I-related contamination from the Spring Valley community. Throughout the duration of the project, USACE and the Spring Valley Community Outreach Team have sought the active, meaningful involvement of the community; community involvement is critical to the success of the cleanup effort.

Questions from Interactions with USACE:

Interactions with USACE

1. Did USACE perform work related to the Spring Valley project at your property (e.g. soil sampling, soil removal, geophysical survey, anomaly removal, ground/surface water sampling)? If so, which type? And when?
2. Do you feel that USACE actively involved you in the process including: scheduling, communicating delays to work, providing updates on activities, and/or providing the necessary reports and assurance letters following the investigation? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever attended a RAB or community meeting hosted by USACE, interacted with USACE staff in the community, or contacted USACE for information? Why or why not?
 - a. How well did USACE explain the information?
 - b. How effectively were your questions answered?

c. Was USACE courteous during the interaction (s)?

Project Knowledge

1. What do you know about the Spring Valley FUDS project overall (history, past activities, current efforts)?
2. What/who is your primary source for information relating to the Spring Valley community (person, group, location, web site)?
3. What is your overall opinion of the way the Spring Valley FUDS project is being handled?
4. What factors contributed to this opinion?
5. What do you see as the concerns of the community generally (technical, physical, social, economic, environmental, communicative, and/or legal) and specifically about the project?
6. What are your personal concerns in relation to the Spring Valley FUDS project (technical, physical, social, economic, environmental, communicative, and/or legal)? Has it affected anyone in your household?

Information Accessibility

1. How do you get information about the site when you are looking for it?
 - a. Contacting the Community Outreach Team;
 - b. Visiting the Spring Valley Project Website;
 - c. Attending Monthly Restoration Advisory Board Meetings;
 - d. Attending Public Meetings/Open Houses;
 - e. Visiting the Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Library;
 - f. Contacting a member of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB); and/or
 - g. Project newsletter (Corps' pondent);
 - h. Other.
2. Are you interested in obtaining more information about the Spring Valley project than what is currently available?
3. If so, what are you interested in learning more about?
4. What do you think the community is interested in knowing?

5. How would you like this information made available to you/the community?
6. How do you prefer to receive information about the Spring Valley project when USACE has new information to provide to the community?
 - a. Outreach methods may include:
 - i. Door-to-door outreach/door-hanger flyers;
 - ii. Individual letters outlining upcoming proposed work at a private property;
 - iii. Individual/small group meetings;
 - iv. Special notices mailed to residents and interested stakeholders;
 - v. Monthly Project Updates emailed to distribution list/local Yahoo! Groups;
 - vi. Quarterly *Corps' pondent* Newsletters mailed to Spring Valley FUDS residents and interested stakeholders;
 - vii. Public notices in newspapers;
 - viii. Posting information on the Spring Valley website;
 - ix. Local Yahoo! Groups postings;
 - x. Facebook;
 - xi. Twitter; and
 - xii. Flickr.
7. Are you satisfied with the frequency with which USACE provides information about the project?
8. How frequently would you like to receive information (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, annually, whenever events warrant it, other)?
9. What other methods could USACE utilize to conduct outreach in the community?

Community Involvement

1. Would you like to be more involved in the project in any way beyond receiving information and updates?
2. Do you think the community would like more involvement?
3. What is the best way to get your/the community's participation?
 - ____ Providing opportunities for you to give written comments about the site.
 - ____ Holding public meetings where you can voice your comments about the site.
 - ____ Providing opportunities for you to meet and talk informally with project staff.
 - ____ Providing a toll free telephone number you can call with your comments.

_____Participating in a community group to discuss citizens' concerns with project representatives.

_____Providing opportunities for you to talk with independent experts.

_____Other _____

4. What day of the week and time of day is best to hold community meetings/open houses?
5. What are the best locations to hold community meetings?
6. Who else in the community would you suggest we speak with about any of the topics we just discussed?
7. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns about the Spring Valley FUDS project?