

The Corps'pondent



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

15th Anniversary of the Restoration Advisory Board

As we approach the 15th anniversary of Spring Valley's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) which was established March 2001, we want to thank all past and present RAB members for their service on the Spring Valley RAB. The Spring Valley Army Corps' team would like to recognize their support, community voice, and contributions during the cleanup of the Spring Valley FUDS. Your time and efforts are valued and much appreciated.

RAB members include a community co-chair, Army co-chair, community members, and representatives from Horace Mann Elementary School, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and an independent consultant through the Technical Assistance Public Participation Program (TAPP).

The Spring Valley RAB was established at the request of the community as interest in the project grew between 2000 and 2001. Due to this increased interest, the Corps felt that a RAB would help increase stakeholder communication and outreach, and increase the flow of information efficiently and in a transparent manner.

"RABs are to serve as forums for discussion and exchange of information between agencies and affected communities. They provide an opportunity for stakeholders to have a voice and actively participate

(See RAB on page 2)

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Final Remediation Investigation Report released

The Spring Valley team prepared written responses to all submitted public comments to the Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report (RI). A summary of these comments and their formal responses are included in Appendix H of the Final RI report, which was finalized in June 2015. This is the first of two formal comment periods to be held in association with the Site-Wide Spring Valley project. The second will be held following release of the Proposed Plan which will propose the preferred alternative selected as a result of the Feasibility Study (FS) analysis.

The Final RI was placed on the project website under Project Efforts/Remedial Investigation and in the Information Repository at Tenley-Friendship Library located at 4450 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, DC.

The FS is scheduled to be finalized in the fall 2015. The purpose of the FS is to develop, screen, and evaluate alternatives to achieve possible remedial action objectives addressing any unacceptable risks or hazards identified in the Final RI Report. Viable alternatives will be presented for public review in the Proposed Plan.

The FS has been drafted and reviewed internally by the USACE team. Currently, the updated Draft FS is being reviewed by the USACE Center of Expertise (CX). Once the CX concludes their review, the edited Draft Final FS will be reviewed by our regulatory Partners (Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy and Environment) and Dr. Peter deFur, our independent Technical Assistance for Public Participation Program (TAPP) consultant.

Please note that USACE is continuously listening to community feedback. We encourage community and stakeholder participation during every phase of the project.

You may contact the Spring Valley Community Outreach Team via email or phone at 410-962-0157 to share any project related information, questions, or concerns.



Learn more about the Final Remediation Investigation Report.

Tentative Schedule From 2015 - 2020

June 2015	USACE finalized the RI report
Fall 2015	Feasibility Study to be finalized
Winter 2015/2016	Prepare the Proposed Plan and start public comment period
Summer 2016	Prepare to sign the Decision Document
~2017-2020	Begin remedial design/remedial action plan/conduct

The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published by the Corporate Communication Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Phone: 410-962-2809 or Spring Valley Information Line: 800-434-0988. It is printed on recycled paper. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

To be added to our email list please email Rebecca Yahiel with the Community Outreach Team at rebecca.e.yahiel@usace.army.mil.

Spring Valley Website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley

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 Project Managers Dan Noble, Brenda Barber and Todd Beckwith
 Public Affairs Specialist Christopher Gardner

(RAB continued from page 1)

in the review of technical documents, to review restoration progress and to provide individual advice to decision makers regarding restoration activities,” according to USACE guidance.

The purpose of the RAB is to provide a forum and mechanism to ensure: a) independent community awareness, b) review and assessment of proposed actions by the Corps and c) the Corps’ consideration of community concerns as they proceed with environmental testing, analysis, remediation and restoration of the Spring Valley neighborhood, to address the contamination and potentially dangerous material remaining in ground as a result of activities of the American University Experimental Station (AUES), a Formerly Used Defense Site. The basis and authority for a RAB derive from 10 USC 2705(d), part of the statute establishing the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP).

RABs exist for other FUDS projects all over the country. For instance, the RAB for Fort Detrick, Maryland first met in November 1997 and continues to meet about 3 to 6 times per year. The RAB for Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland began meeting in September 1995 and continues to meet regularly as well.

Upcoming Schedule and Reminders

The remaining Spring Valley RAB dates for 2015 are **September 15th** and November 10th. The first RAB meeting of 2016 is schedule for January 12th.

These meetings are open to the public. Currently, the RAB meets every other month for about 60-90 minutes in the ‘Undercroft’ meeting room at St. David’s Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Copies of the minutes and presentations of the bi-monthly RAB meetings are placed in Spring Valley’s information repositories at the Tenley Friendship Library as well as posted on the project website under ‘Community Participation.’



Dan Noble, USACE Project Manager, presenting at the May 2015 RAB Meeting.



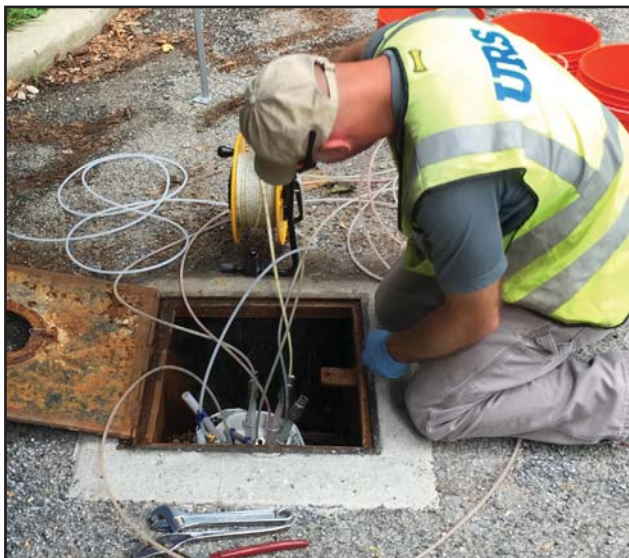
*Learn more about
Community Participation.*

Groundwater sampling continues

Groundwater sampling in Spring Valley is now being conducted annually at select wells near American University and Sibley Hospital, which are two specific areas of detected groundwater contamination. The field team coordinated and completed the annual sampling event from April 23rd – April 29th. A field team also completed the second sampling event for the new, deep multi-port monitoring well, MP-5, on Rockwood Parkway on June 16th. MP-5 has five sampling ports at different depths below the ground surface. Laboratory results showed that all five sampling ports were non-detect for perchlorate and arsenic in June. The first sampling results in January 2015 for MP-5 were non-detect for perchlorate, and less than 1 part per billion for arsenic.

The USACE team has drafted the Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) Report, which is currently being reviewed by Army agencies. The final RI report will be available on our project website after it is reviewed by Army agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). The Groundwater RI report will provide a summary of the groundwater investigation findings to include a review of all the data collected to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination in Spring Valley from past Army activities. The Groundwater RI will also include a Human Health Risk Assessment, which will evaluate risk to human health using different potential exposure scenarios for groundwater, including the potential future use of groundwater as a drinking water source.

As a reminder, Spring Valley groundwater is not currently used as a drinking water source, but for comparison purposes, groundwater contaminant concentrations are compared to drinking water standards and advisories established by the EPA.

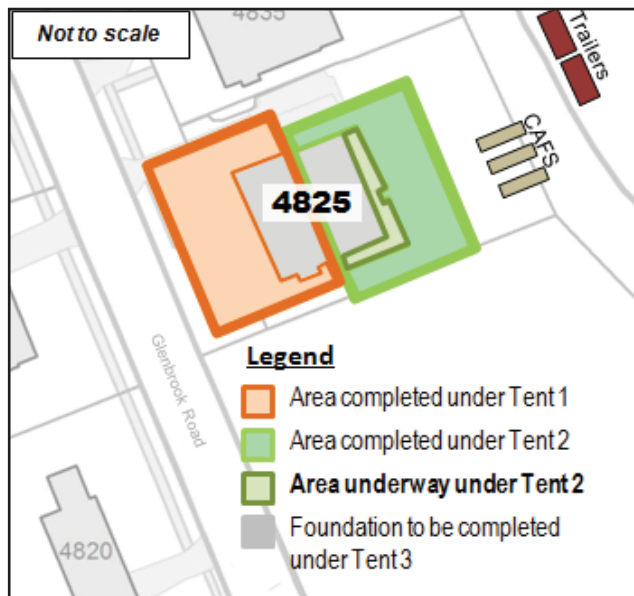


In June, our crew sampled the new monitoring well, MP-5. This was the well’s second sampling since being installed last fall.

Maximizing Every Effort: Glenbrook Road Project Moves Ahead

After nearly 9 months of high probability soil excavation, demolition of concrete patios, retaining walls and basement walls, the operations taking place in the backyard under ‘Tent 2’ are nearing completion. We are slightly ahead of schedule and are likely to complete the Tent 2 excavation effort a month before the forecasted December 2015 timeframe. Under the second tent location to date (August 21, 2015), crews have excavated 86 roll-offs of soil, 424 soil drums, 14 roll-offs of rubble and 226 rubble drums. Within this area, crews have also recovered about 52 pounds of broken American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related glassware, five 75mm munition debris items, one open cavity 75mm, two empty 4.7” projectiles, and one non-munition item: a metallic cylinder filled with strong chlorine bleach. Throughout the past few months, no chemical agent has been detected by on-site air monitors, and no intact glass containers have been found.

The map below outlines the areas completed to date, under Tents 1 and 2. When the remaining area under Tent 2 is completed, high probability excavations planned throughout the property will be completed except for the majority of the area under the house. The house foundation area will be fully excavated to bedrock under Tent 3, utilizing all of the same high probability safety protocols.



The map shows the progress made to date, as well as areas to be completed under the safety of the mobile engineering control structure.

Monthly Progress: April through August 2015

Throughout April, May and June the crews continued working carefully inside the engineering control structure (Tent 2) in the back patio area. This effort involved carefully

demolishing sections of a retaining wall and the former backyard patio porch, then excavating to bedrock and examining the soil and rubble. As we excavated, lagging was installed to support the soil walls. During April’s excavation operation, crews safely recovered one 75 mm munition debris item. During the excavation and soil removal effort in the patio area, because of the small amount of soil and debris contaminated with mustard and lewisite found in the area during the previous investigation, our protocols required the crews to contain the soil and concrete rubble from this area in closed drums. Also, prior to demolishing a wall adjacent to contaminated soil, the crews take several samples of each basement wall section for analysis. All of the cement samples were clear of contamination. However, soil sample results in June indicated very low levels of Mustard and 1, 4-Dithiane in some soil removed from the back patio area, where the contaminated debris was recovered during the prior investigation. These results were below quantitation limits, and were not detected by the air monitors during excavation.

Throughout July, the crews continued excavating soil and removing the remaining sections of the backyard basement wall and retaining walls nearby. An area of particular interest in July was the rear crawlspace. After removing the concrete top, crews investigated and removed the soil inside. Since only a few fragments of broken AUES-related glassware were recovered in the crawlspace, and there were no signs of stained soil either, the effort went quickly. At the end of the month, crews were nearing completion of the excavation around the back basement wall, clearing the soil down to the cement footer of the basement floor.

In August, the crews moved from the backyard basement wall area to the side yard along the 4801 Glenbrook Road side of the property. This small narrow area near the basement wall of the former home was just outside of the 2007 Burial Pit 3 excavation area. In early August, as we started excavating in this narrow area, we recovered two munition debris and one metallic cylinder (see photos on page 4). In late August, soil sample results indicated very low levels of Lewisite, and were not detected by the air monitors during excavation. As we had done in June, samples were taken of the nearby cement wall before demolishing it.

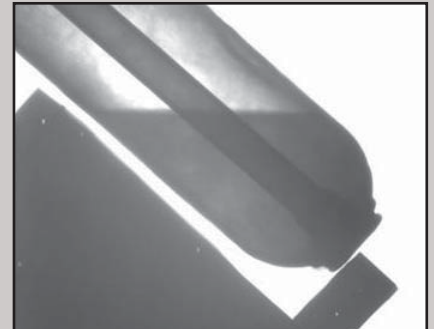
Looking ahead, with Tent 2 remaining slightly ahead of schedule, we anticipate starting construction of Tent 3 in the late fall, and beginning our high probability excavation efforts under the house

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Three recently recovered items at the Glenbrook Road project:



Two closed cavity empty munition debris items were found on July 31st and August 3rd (above), and a non-munition item, a metallic cylinder filled with strong chlorine bleach was found on August 4th (right). All three American University Experiment Station related items were recovered under the containment structure, in the side yard, close to a basement wall.

(Glenbrook Road continued from page 3)

foundation in early in 2016. The Shelter-in-Place program will be paused during the tent relocation efforts, just as it was during the previous tent move last fall.

We are grateful for the continued community support we received these past few months when we began implementing an earlier operations schedule to take advantage of the cooler mornings, due to the increased heat and humidity. During our summer hours, starting at 6:30

am and finishing no later than 2 pm, Monday to Friday, we asked our nearest neighbors to be ready to Shelter-in-Place during these earlier hours. Safety continues to be our number one priority at the site, and community participation and support is a key part of safety. We anticipate returning to our regular hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. sometime in September, depending on the seasonal weather shifts.