



Introduction/Background

The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of approximately 661 acres in the northwest section of Washington, D.C. During the World War I-era, the site was known as American University Experiment Station (AUES), and was used by the U.S. government for research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions.



Today, the Spring Valley FUDS encompasses approximately 1,600 private homes and lots, including several properties owned by various embassies, as well as the American University and Wesley Seminary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) has the lead responsibility for investigation and cleanup actions at the Spring Valley FUDS, and has entered into a formal partnering process with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). As a result of the agreement, all project decisions and priorities are determined by consensus. The three organizations, referred to as the Partners, have agreed to prioritize the project work by risk, addressing the highest risks first.

Since the initiation of cleanup activities at Spring Valley in 1993, USACE has overseen several cleanup actions. These have included removal of munitions items, munitions debris and other contamination from burial pits and debris fields as well as the investigation soil on more than 1,600 properties to identify arsenic contamination and the subsequent remediation of all 177 properties that were determined to be contaminated with arsenic. After years of investigation and carrying out cleanup activities at sites identified as having the highest risks, USACE is now carrying out what is referred to as the Site-Wide Remedial Action, which is the concluding phase the Spring Valley project. The Site-Wide Remedial Action will mitigate the remaining risks posed by soil contamination and unacceptable hazards due to munitions that may remain within the Spring Valley FUDS. This phase is part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, a federal environmental regulation that governs clean-ups at sites around the nation.

Site-Wide Remedial Action

The Site-Wide Remedial Action is focused in four main areas of work:

- **Address Remaining Unacceptable Explosive Hazards** - Conduct the final survey effort at 92 residential properties and 13 Federal/City Lots identified where investigation has determined there may potentially be unacceptable explosive hazards due to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).



Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Remedial Action Fact Sheet

August 2019

- This will involve geophysically mapping below the surface to identify metallic anomalies that could be MEC. USACE will use the latest advanced technology to identify subsurface metallic items as either MEC to be removed and safely destroyed or harmless cultural debris such as construction debris, rebar, etc. to be left underground
- **Address Remaining Unacceptable Risks Posed by Soil Contamination** - Soil removal in the southern portion of the American University (AU) campus where investigation has determined there may be unacceptable risks posed by soil contamination.
- **Complete Cleanup of Lot 18 Debris Field** - The excavation of soil underneath the foundation of AU's former Public Safety Building which is part of an area of the FUDS known as Lot 18 where work has previously been carried out to remove buried debris in the ground surrounding the building.
 - Now that American University has moved forward with their plans to tear down the old Public Safety Building, USACE will remove the foundation and clear any debris or contaminated soil that may be under it as part of the Site-Wide Remedial Action.
- **Continued Community Outreach and Long-Term Oversight** - Continue the Explosive Safety Education Program (The 3R's: Recognize, Retreat, Report), and 5-year reviews to ensure that human health and the environment continue to be protected.
 - This is a site-wide effort that will help ensure the community remains aware of the site's past and the potential risks that could remain stemming from that past military use.

The Site-Wide Remedial Action was approved in 2017 and a contract was awarded for the detailed planning and execution of the four aspects of the Site-Wide Remedial Action in summer 2017. USACE expects to begin cleanup fieldwork regarding these four aspects in 2018, and for work to be complete in 2020.

Please note the owners of all properties where further work is scheduled to be done as part of the Site-Wide Remedial Action have been notified directly.

For additional information, including fact sheets with greater details regarding each of the four main areas of work in the **Site-Wide Remedial Action**, please visit the Spring Valley project website: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley> If you have additional questions, please call our Community Outreach Office at 410-962-2210 or email rebecca.e.yahiel@usace.army.mil.