



**SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROJECT**  
**RAB Meeting**

**November 14, 2017**  
**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**UNDERCROFT MEETING ROOM**  
**ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**5150 MACOMB ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC**

**Agenda**

- 7:00 p.m.      I.      Administrative Items**  
Co-Chair Updates  
    ▪ Introductions, Announcements  
Task Group Updates  
    ▪ RAB Membership
- 7:05 p.m.      II.      USACE Program Updates**  
Project Funding  
Site-Wide Remedial Design/Remedial Action  
Groundwater Study  
4825 Glenbrook Road
- 7:30 p.m.      III.      Community Items**
- 7:40 p.m.      IV.      Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development**  
Upcoming Meeting Topics:  
    ▪ (Suggestions?)  
  
    \*Next meeting: January 9, 2018
- 7:50 p.m.      V.      Public Comments**
- 8:00 p.m.      VI.      Adjourn**

*\*Note: The RAB meets every odd month.*

# SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

## Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

14 November 2017

“The USACE Mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or to the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.”

*“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”*



# AGENDA REVIEW

## Co-Chair Updates

- Introduction, Announcements

## Task Group Updates

- RAB Membership

## USACE Updates

- Annual Project Funding
- Site-Wide Remedial Design/  
Remedial Action
- Groundwater Study
- 4825 Glenbrook Road

## Community Items

## Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development

## Public Comments





# CO-CHAIR UPDATES

## Introductions

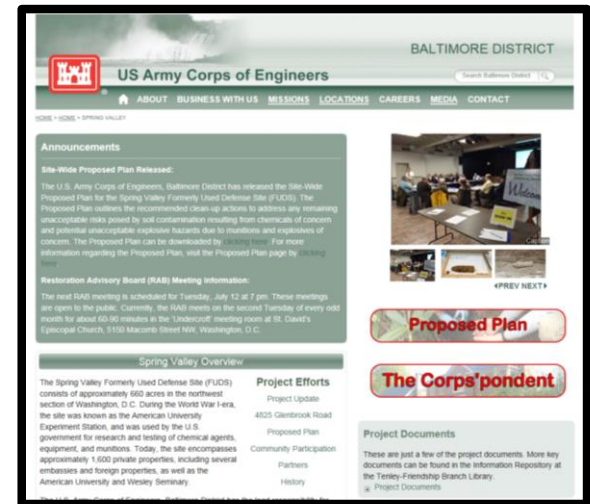


# CO-CHAIR UPDATES

## Announcements

### — Website Updates:

- September and October Monthly Site-Wide Project Updates
- Weekly 4825 Glenbrook Rd Project Updates with photos
- September RAB meeting minutes
- June and August Partner meeting minutes
- Public Safety Building Factsheet



# TASK GROUP UPDATES



# ANNUAL PROJECT FUNDING

USACE Updates



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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS FUNDING SUMMARY

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## ➤ **FY17, Actual Funding (\$13.900 M)**

- **Military Munitions Response Program (\$13.484 M)**
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action (\$10.869 M)
  - Conduct Remedial Action at 4825 Glenbrook Rd (\$2.082 M)
  - Pilot Project
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Site Security
- **Hazardous Toxic Waste (\$0.289 M)**
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action
  - Groundwater Investigation
- **Potentially Responsible Party (\$0.079 M)**
  - Conduct PRP Investigation
- **Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) (\$0.041 M)**
  - RAB Technical Consultant
  - RAB Cost



**US Army Corps  
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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS FUNDING SUMMARY

## ➤ **FY18, Projected Funding (\$12.156 M)**

- **Military Munitions Response Program (\$11.864 M)**
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action (\$5.632 M)
  - Remedial Action at 4825 Glenbrook Road (\$6.232 M)
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Site Security
- **Hazardous Toxic Waste (\$0.191 M)**
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action
  - Groundwater RI/FS
- **Potentially Responsible Party (\$0.021 M)**
  - Conduct PRP Investigation
- **Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) (\$0.08 M)**
  - RAB Technical Consultant
  - RAB Cost



**US Army Corps  
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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS FUNDING SUMMARY

FY	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
\$\$ in M	11.859	8.861	1.744	0.087	0.292	1.164	8.874	10.892

FY	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 <sub>a</sub>
\$\$ in M	9.824	19.819	11.000	11.471	20.362	11.063	13.843	20.871

FY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
\$\$ in M	15.700	19.345	17.220	6.501	9.210	33.280	3.561	7.497

FY	2017	2018 <sub>b</sub>	2019	2020				
\$\$ in M	13.900	12.156	--	--				

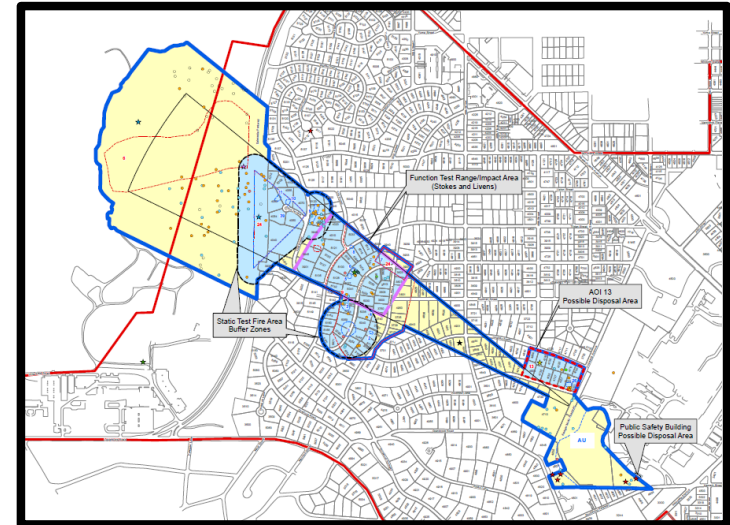
**Spent through FY 2017: \$ 288.24M**

**a** = FY08 includes \$3.2 M Congressional additional funding

**b** = Planned funding for FY18



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# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL DESIGN / REMEDIAL ACTION (RD/RA)

USACE Updates



# SITE-WIDE RD/RA

Our contractor team continues to draft the Site-Wide Remedial Design Work Plans.

These plans will develop the details of carrying out the selected remedial actions:

- Removal of contaminated soil at small areas in the southern portion of AU campus and at one residential property;
- Clean under the foundation of AU's former Public Safety Building;
- And conduct the final survey effort at 91 residential properties.



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# SITE-WIDE RD/RA

## ***Tentative Schedule***

✓ <b>June 15, 2017</b>	Signed the <b>Decision Document</b> .
✓ <b>June 30, 2017</b>	<b>Contract awarded.</b>
✓ <b>July 2017</b>	Begin <b>Remedial Design</b> .
<b>~ Winter 2018-2020</b>	Conduct <b>Remedial Action</b> field work, including at the former Public Safety Building site at AU.



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# GROUNDWATER STUDY

## USACE Updates



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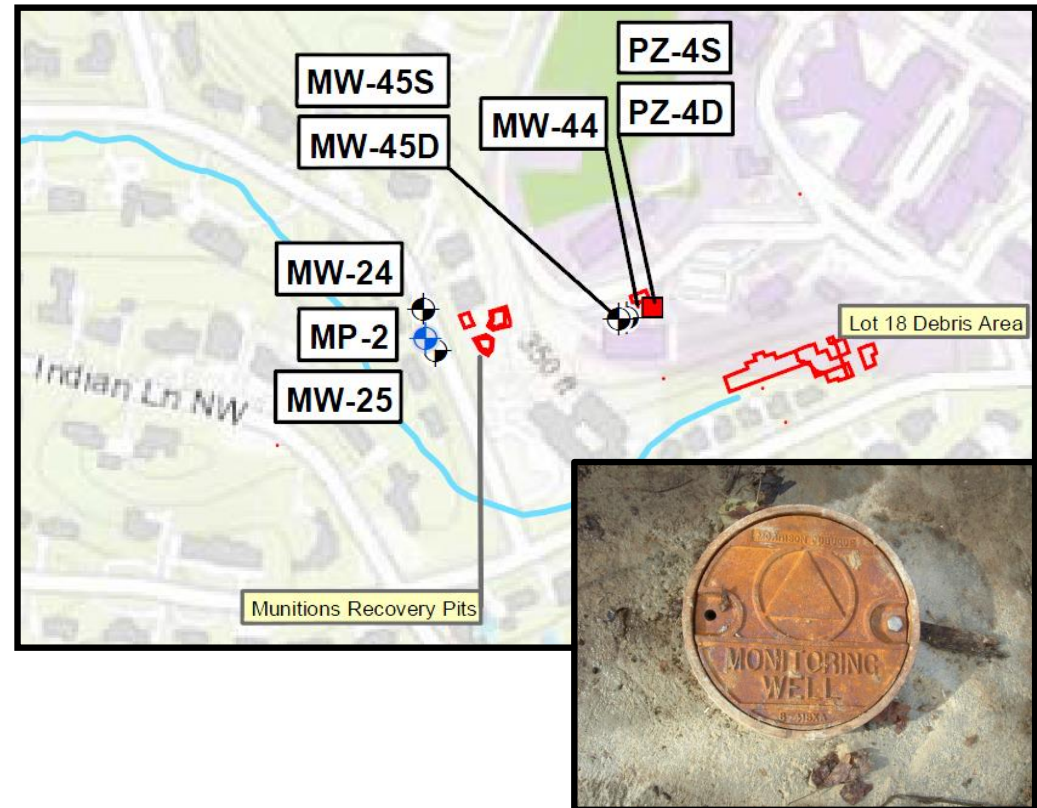
# GROUNDWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Army Corps continues to prepare responses to the regulatory Partners comments on the draft Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

Once the comments are addressed and the FS is finalized, the team will begin drafting the Groundwater Proposed Plan.

## Tentative Schedule:

- Address Partner comments and finalize FS – Winter 2017.
- Proposed Plan, public comment period, public meeting - Winter 2018.
- Finalize Decision Document - Summer 2018.



# 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD

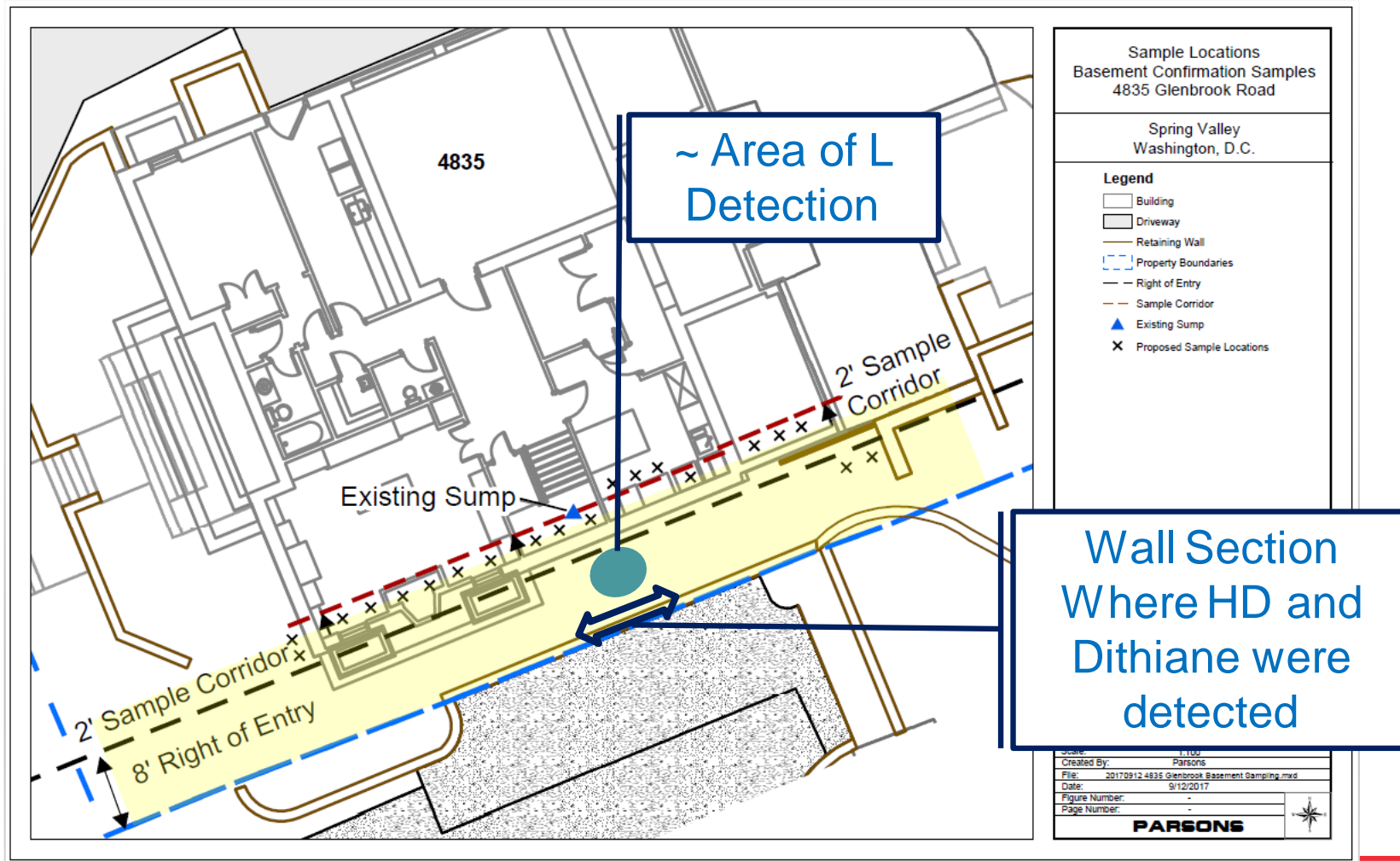
## USACE Updates



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# NON-INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

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# NON-INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

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Concrete demolition was performed after sample results indicated some chemical contamination was present in portions of the concrete retaining wall and footers.

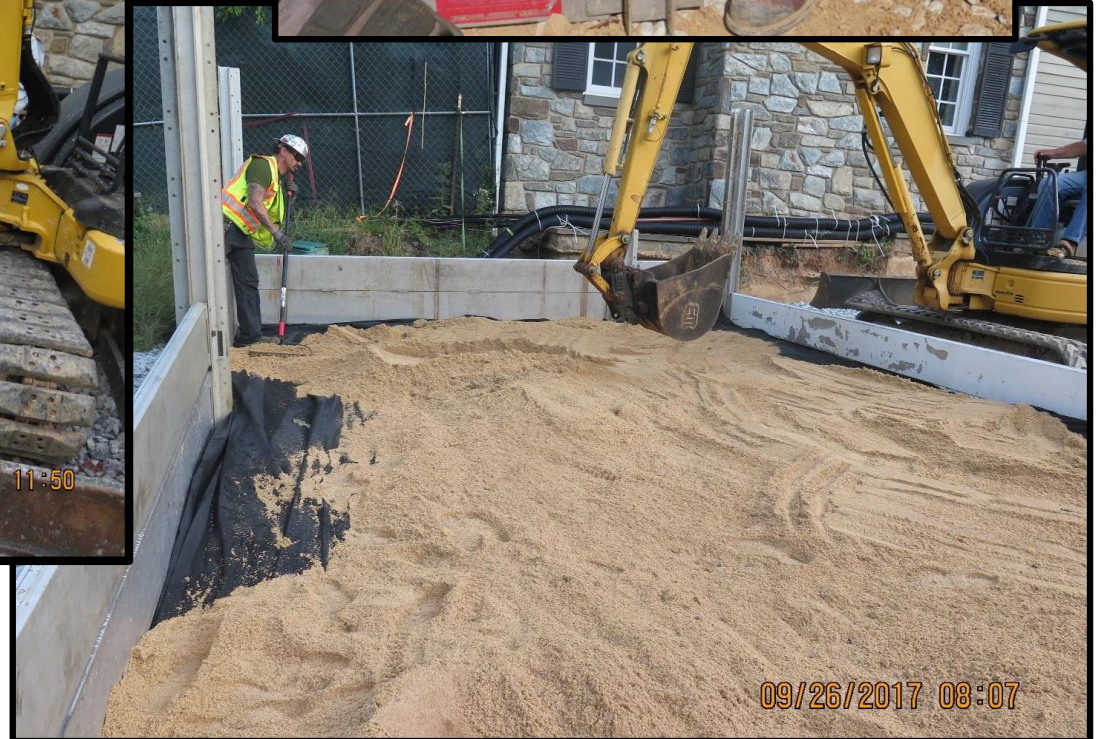
*Collected concrete core samples from the four large sections of the concrete retaining wall and footers.*





# NON-INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

Teams conduct the concrete demolition work within an on-site sump area, so that the dust and water generated during the process is contained.





# NON-INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES



Once the concrete and rebar are separated and broken down to the correct size, they are loaded into drums and then transported to the Federal Property for storage, until shipped to an appropriate disposal facility.





# NON-INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

Seasonal site maintenance included inspecting and repairing the perimeter fencing and resetting the silt fences at the Glenbrook Road site and Federal Property.



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# BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

SAFETY INCIDENT – AUG 9, 2017

The Board of Investigation continued meeting, concerning the August 9<sup>th</sup> incident near the shared property line.

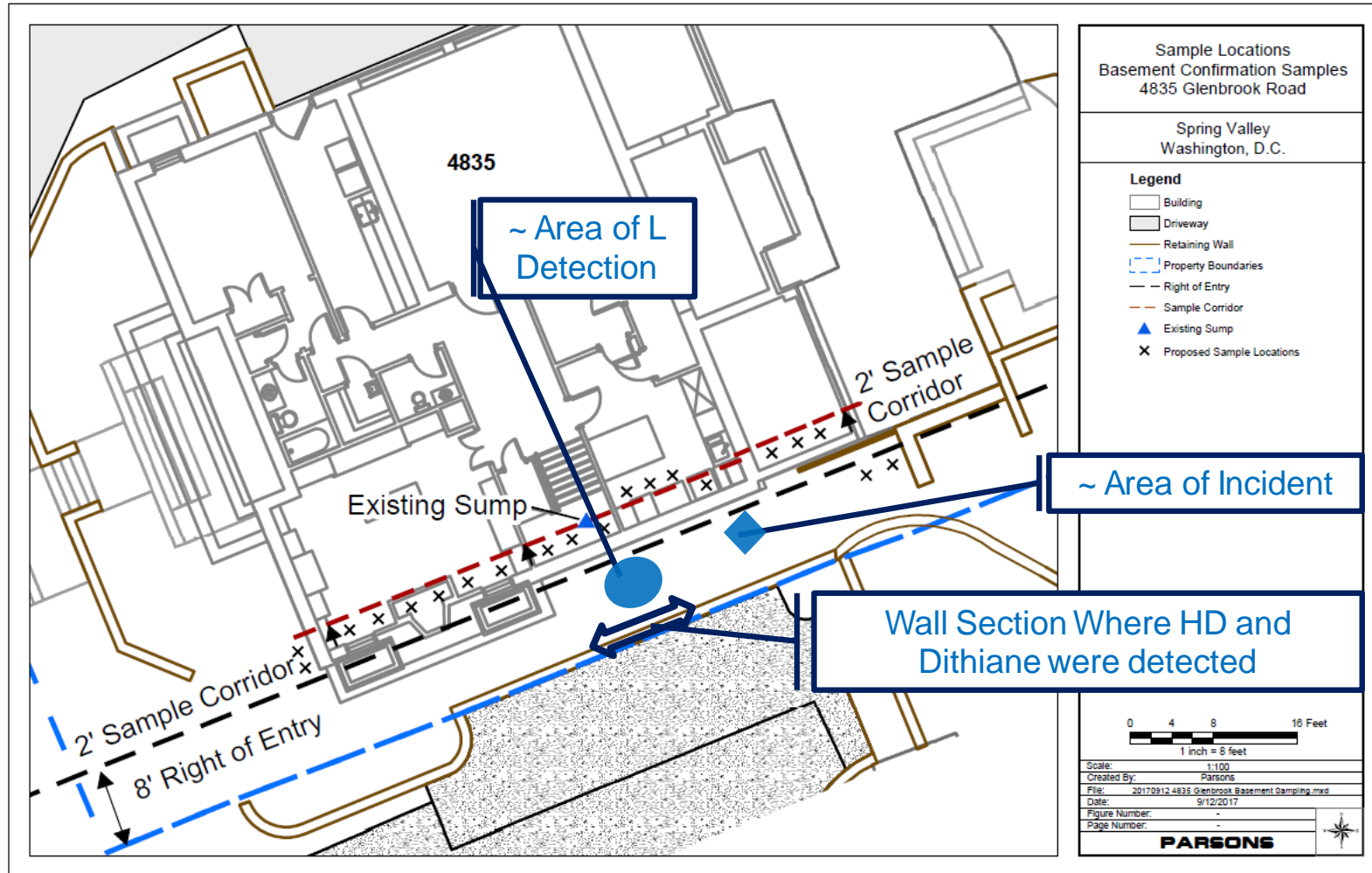
The Board informed the USACE Project Team that the final report will be issued in November.



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# BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

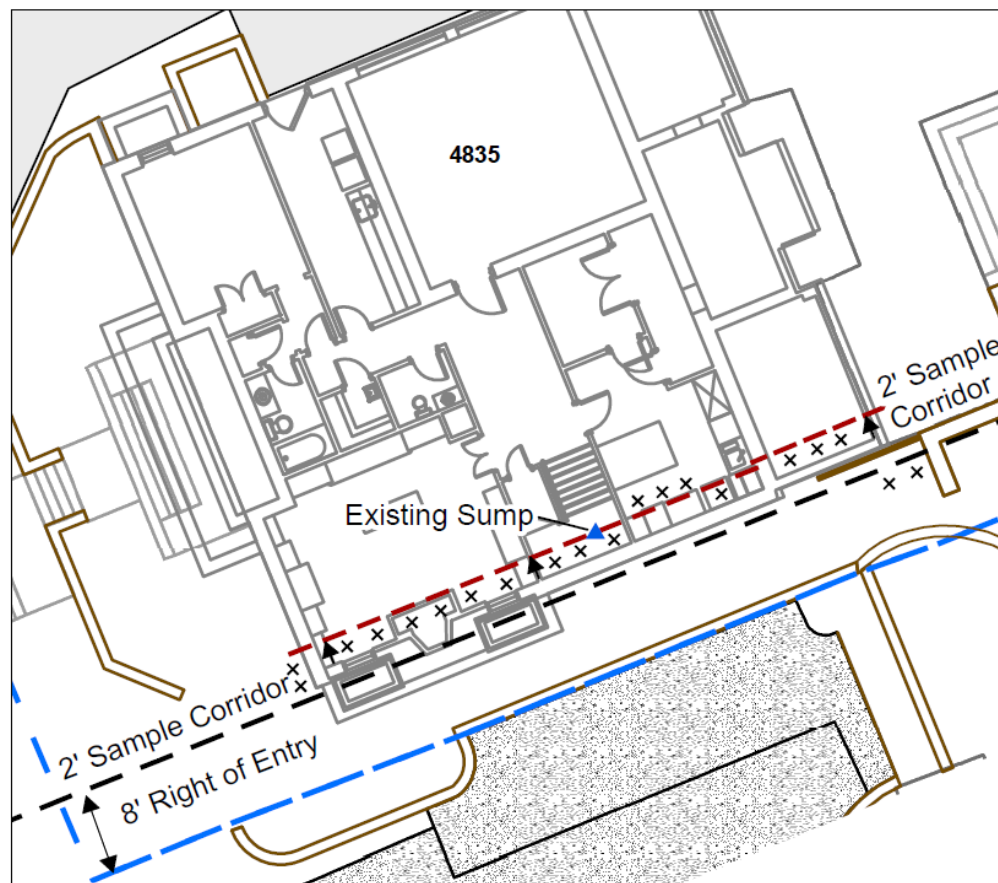
## SAFETY INCIDENT – AUG 9, 2017





# 4835 GLENBROOK ROAD SAMPLING EFFORT

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## ***USACE proposes the following:***

- A single row of samples will be completed first
  - Samples in the front yard.
  - Samples through the basement floor into the subgrade below the house.
- Sample the exposed concrete foundation wall along the shared property line.

## ***Dependent upon the results of the first round of sampling the following additional sampling may be performed:***

- Additional sampling along the exterior foundation walls along the front of the house and the side by the driveway/garage.
- Complete sampling of the basement floor into the subgrade below the house.

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Board of Investigation:  
Report and recommendations due by the end of November.
- Initial sampling effort at 4835 Glenbrook Road to help determine next steps.
- The USACE Team will review the Board's Report and the results of the sampling effort to prepare a 'return to work' plan.
  - Regulatory Concurrence
  - AU Concurrence





# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

## Upcoming Holiday Break:

Site operations will be paused in observance of Thanksgiving, beginning Wednesday, November 22nd. The team will return to work on Monday, November 27th.



In December, the site crew is scheduled to work through Thursday, December 21st, and return on January 3rd. During the holidays or any site shutdown, security will be provided 24/7.

**Temporary  
Site  
Shutdown**

**Develop a  
return to  
work plan**

**Complete  
Remedial  
Action**

**Site  
Restoration**

**Return  
Property  
to AU**

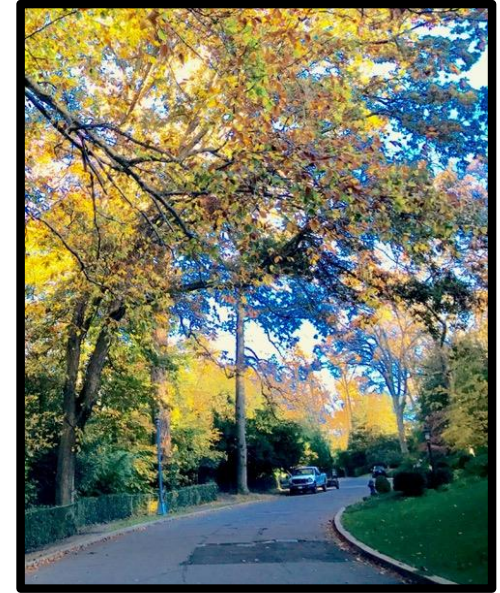
**Path Forward** – Timing to be determined



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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



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## *Community Items*



# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

## Reminders:

- The next RAB meeting will be  
Tuesday, **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Suggestions?



# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

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## Public Comments

## Wrap-Up



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the November 2017 Meeting**

<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Alma Gates	At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School
John Wheeler	Community Member
James Sweeney	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Tom Smith	Community Member
Dr. Peter deFur or representative	Environmental Stewardship Concepts/RAB TAPP Consultant
George Vassiliou	Community Member
Malcolm Pritzker	Community Member
Mary Douglas	Community Member
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Linda Argo	At Large Representative - American University
<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Kathleen Connell	Community Member
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
William Krebs	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Steve Hirsh	Agency Representative - US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
<b>ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL</b>	
Brenda Barber	USACE, Spring Valley Project Manager
Alex Zahl	USACE, Spring Valley Technical Manager
Rebecca Yahiel	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Carrie Johnston	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Whitney Gross	Spring Valley Community Outreach Team

Holly Hostetler	ERT, Inc.
Chris Gardner	USACE, Corporate Communications Office

### **HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING**

- I. Final Agenda for the November 14, 2017 RAB Meeting
- II. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation
- III. October 2017 Monthly Project Summary
- IV. American University's former Public Safety Building Summary and Next Steps Fact Sheet
- V. Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board Brochure
- VI. Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board Application and Community Interest Form

## **AGENDA**

**Starting Time:** The November 2017 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting began at 7:05 PM.

### **I. Administrative Items**

#### **A. Co-Chair Updates**

Dan Noble, Military Co-Chair/U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

#### **1. Introductions**

D. Noble introduced Whitney Gross, new Spring Valley Community Outreach Team member.

#### **2. General Announcements**

D. Noble reviewed the website updates which included the September and October monthly project updates, the weekly 4825 Glenbrook Road updates and photos, September RAB meeting minutes, June and August Partner Meeting Minutes, and American University's former Public Safety Building Summary and Next Steps Fact Sheet.

#### **B. Task Group Updates**

Ralph Cantral, Community Member, submitted his resignation from the RAB. R. Cantral is moving. He expressed that he enjoyed being on the RAB and working with all of the members. R. Cantral's resignation creates a Community Member vacancy on the Board which will need to be filled and applications are available.

### **II. USACE Program Updates**

#### **A. Project Funding Summary**

The government fiscal year (FY) ends on September 30, and the new FY begins on October 1. Since this was the first meeting of FY 2018, D. Noble presented the Annual Project Funding Summary.

**1. FY17 Actual Funding (\$13.900 M)** The project was scheduled to receive ~10.5 M, but received an additional ~3.4 M in FY17.

- Military Munitions Response Program (\$13.484 M)
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action (\$10.869 M)
  - Conduct Remedial Action at 4825 Glenbrook Road (\$2.082 M)
  - Pilot Project
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Site Security
- Hazardous Toxic Waste (environmental contamination) (\$0.289 M)
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action
  - Groundwater Investigation
- Potentially Responsible Party (\$0.079 M)
  - Conduct PRP Investigation
- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) (\$0.041 M)
  - RAB Technical Consultant
  - RAB Cost

## **2. FY18 Projected Funding (\$12.156 M)**

- Military Munitions Response Program (\$11.864 M)
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action (\$5.632 M)
  - Remedial Action at 4825 Glenbrook Road (\$6.232 M)
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Site Security
- Hazardous Toxic Waste (\$0.191 M)
  - Site-Wide Remedial Action
  - Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS)
- Potentially Responsible Party (\$0.021 M)
  - Conduct PRP Investigation
  - PRP Report expected to be completed in 2018.
- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) (\$0.08 M)
  - This is double the amount from last year because the Department of the Army has asked USACE to track the cost of USACE staff involved with the RAB meetings as a separate line item in the budget.
  - RAB Technical Consultant
  - RAB Cost

Funding spent through FY17: \$288.24 M

## **B. Site-Wide Remedial Design/Remedial Action**

D. Noble briefly reviewed the Site-Wide Remedial Design (RD)/Remedial Action (RA).

After the Site-Wide Decision Document (DD) was signed last summer, USACE hired a contractor to carry out the decisions in the Site-Wide DD. The Site-Wide RA will be a three-pronged effort, consisting of:

- Small-scale contaminated soil removal on the southern American University (AU) campus and a residential property that borders the southern AU campus.
- Clean-up under the foundation of AU's former Public Safety Building (PSB), now that the PSB has been removed.
- Final survey effort at 91 private residences in the neighborhood for potential munition items



left behind by former American University Experiment Station (AUES) activities.

Question from Gerry Barton, Audience Member - There was a piece of ordnance found at the main administration building near the president's office, mentioned two meetings ago. Has anything come of that, was that just a piece of stuff that was there?

D. Noble confirmed that the item was an expended munition, and investigating the site where the item was found is still on the list of things to do for USACE. USACE will return to the site of the discovery and take a soil sample.

## 1. Tentative Schedule

The Site-Wide RD has been underway since July. The contractor has delivered to USACE a planning document that goes into all of the technical requirements and specifications for using the Advanced Geophysical Classification systems through the neighborhood. USACE is reviewing the planning document at this time, and will then forward the planning document to the regulators for further review: Steve Hirsh, Agency Representative, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, James Sweeney, Agency Representative, Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), and Peter deFur, Environmental Stewardship Concepts/RAB TAPP Consultant. USACE is expecting an additional separate planning document that would cover the work at the PSB and the small-scale soil removal actions, so there will be 2 work plans for the Site-Wide effort. The work is well under way and making progress. USACE plans for all aspects of the Site-Wide effort field work to begin as early as possible in calendar year 2018.

Comment from Allen Hengst, Audience Member - I think I found an error in your PSB summary. The second paragraph in Past Remediation Efforts.

Chris Gardner, USACE, Corporate Communications Office, clarified that A. Hengst, Audience Member was referring to the American University's former Public Safety Building Summary and Next Steps Fact Sheet.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - It says horizontal drilling beneath the PSB was conducted to obtain soil samples, but no AUES-related debris was encountered. That is kind of a tricky sentence, because you probably recall they recovered a 75mm artillery round underneath the front entrance of the PSB? It was sticking out? Do you remember that, in 2010?

D. Noble confirmed that was the entrance pad of the lower front door.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So the way this is written it sounds like they did not encounter any debris under the PSB, but in fact they found an open-cavity 75mm artillery round sticking out underneath the front porch.

D. Noble explained that item was found during the open excavation efforts and did not occur during the horizontal drilling.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - But still, you say that you did not encounter any debris during the horizontal drilling, but you neglect to mention the fact that you found a 75mm round underneath the front porch.

D. Noble explained that USACE will review the factsheet, but pointed out that the PSB factsheet was posted on the website in anticipation of returning to work at the former PSB. USACE wanted to refresh everyone's memory in a brief way as to what has gone on there in the past and what the issues are that made USACE want to look underneath the building.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Well, it should be fixed on the website as well.

D. Nobel confirmed that if changes are made, the changes would be made on the website as well. However the factsheet is worded, USACE is obviously concerned enough to undertake a serious effort to look under the building. USACE requested that AU to leave the slab in place so USACE can investigate and remediate under the building.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Well, the impact of that sentence is to downplay the whole issue of munitions debris under the building, when in fact you did find a 75mm round sticking out underneath the front porch of that building.

D. Noble explained that USACE recorded all items and their locations during the PSB investigation. USACE found ~50 or 60 pieces of munitions debris during excavations around the building, including a Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) item. USACE has been very open about everything found around the building.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - It kind of reminds me of the statement about Neil Kerwin never having abandoned 4835 Glenbrook Road when he left for two years and that was allowed to stand at the June partnering meeting. Now you are saying you did not find any munitions debris under the PSB, when in fact you did.

D. Noble reiterated that the PSB factsheet was talking about the horizontal drilling event that was a separate event. USACE is not attempting to hide anything in a publicly released report. USACE described the ~50 to 60 pieces of munitions debris that were found in close proximity to the PSB as well as the MEC item found behind the PSB. USACE will look at that sentence, however, and make sure the sentence is clear about the subject.

### **C. Groundwater Feasibility Study**

D. Noble provided a brief status update on the Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

USACE continues to address the comments received from the regulators on the Draft Groundwater FS. Once the comments have been addressed and the Groundwater FS has been finalized, the next step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process is the Groundwater Proposed Plan (PP).

#### **1. Tentative Schedule**

- Address Partner comments and finalize Groundwater FS – winter 2017.
- Proposed Plan, public comment period, public meeting – winter 2018.
- Finalize Groundwater DD – summer 2018.

The reason why the update has been the same for the last several meetings is because some of the issues USACE is working on with EPA and DOE are at a higher level in USACE. USACE, at project level, cannot move forward without guidance from USACE Headquarters (HQ). S. Hirsh, EPA Region III and James Sweeney, DOE are aware of the issues. The issues are impacting more than one site across the country as far as Department of Defense (DoD) sites concerning groundwater clean-up. USACE will provide updates to the RAB when those updates are available from USACE HQ.

Questions from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I read the Partnering minutes from August about the disagreement between EPA and USACE on the perchlorate clean-up. I am also aware of what is happening at other sites around the country where the Army has polluted the

groundwater with perchlorate and the clean-ups that are projected there. I have 2 questions; how long has this Groundwater FS been out for comment? The second question, what is the basis of the serious disagreement between USACE and EPA on cleaning up the perchlorate, in a nutshell?

D. Noble confirmed that he believed USACE briefed the RAB on the Groundwater FS a couple weeks after the document was sent to the regulators. He could not remember which RAB meeting the presentation was, but thought it must have been about eight months ago.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – Well, I think it was more and I do not remember a feasibility study being out for comment this long.

D. Noble confirmed perhaps not on this project, but certainly on other projects.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - What, in a nutshell, is the basis of the serious disagreement that was mentioned?

D. Noble explained that there is a difference between EPA and USACE on the intent of the environmental clean-up law. The basic crux of the issue is that the EPA believes that in addition to identifying and reducing risk of environmental contamination, the law has the intent to return resources to their beneficial use. In other words, if there is groundwater that is not being used by anyone, but that groundwater is contaminated, so therefore cannot be used by anyone, there is some intent in the law to clean the groundwater such that the groundwater can be beneficially used in some fashion. USACE's interpretation is that the law is clear that actual risk to the environment or human health should be identified and prioritized. Absent that risk, there is no impetus in the law to perform a clean-up for clean-up's sake. D. Noble noted that he was simply describing the disagreement and did not want to argue which side is better since he is not part of the disagreement.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I do not want to argue either; I just want to observe that you have changed your position, because we had this discussion here many times with Lee Monsein about why the groundwater has to be cleaned up. I have heard Steve Hirsh say it so many times, I could almost give his speech by heart now. The groundwater has to be cleaned up everywhere; not just in Spring Valley, but in Texas, Minnesota, California, and wherever USACE has done this. That has been USACE's position until recently. Now suddenly USACE is backpedaling, saying, 'wait a minute, we do not agree with the EPA anymore.' A year ago you agreed with the EPA.

D. Noble explained that Steve Hirsh, who represents EPA, may have said that, but he was representing EPA's opinion.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - He said it at the open meeting where Lee Monsein continually raises the issue of why we have to clean up the groundwater, and nobody from USACE ever objected to what Steve was saying.

D. Noble explained that USACE is not going to object to what S. Hirsh, EPA Region III says; S. Hirsh, EPA Region III was accurate; that is what EPA believes.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - You are just going to silently disagree with him until push gets to shove, and the Groundwater FS has to be signed off on. Can we have a Feasibility Study where the EPA does not sign off on the remedy?

D. Noble confirmed this. He explained that the construct is there within the law. This is not a

National Priorities List (NPL) site, where the EPA would have preeminence over the remedy.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Well, of course you are going to get more than the EPA pushing back on you if you decide to do that.

Question from Tom Smith, Community Member - But there will be comment period, right?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Comment from T. Smith, Community Member - There will be a comment period so the public will have an opportunity to make comments if that is the case.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I am just noting that there has been a change in the USACE position in the last year.

Comment from T. Smith, Community Member - I understand, but it is good for all of us to keep in mind that there will be a public comment period where maybe we can shape the outcome.

Question from Mary Bresnahan, Community Member - Has it actually been determined exactly the source of the perchlorate?

D. Noble explained that the source of the perchlorate has not been determined.

Question from John Wheeler, Community Member - I have a question on this. How does this issue get resolved? You said it is higher up; if USACE was a private Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), it could be resolved by a judge, but generally disputes between EPA and USACE cannot be resolved that way. It could be resolved by a judge with other parties involved, but I am just wondering how this gets resolved when it is an issue between USACE and the EPA?

D. Noble explained that for a federal site that is not an NPL site where there is no agreement with EPA, such as a federal facilities compliance agreement, the strict legal position is that the DoD has the authority to clean up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) and to make the determinations as to what should be done on FUDS sites. USACE greatly desires to have state regulator concurrence on its decisions. What it will come down to is whether DOEE will concur with USACE on the proposed remedy, but even if DOEE does not concur, state regulator concurrence is not an absolute requirement.

Comment from J. Wheeler, Community Member - But the state has enforcement authority over USACE, whereas EPA may not.

D. Noble explained that the discussion was starting to get into legal regulations, and did not want to comment further.

Comment from J. Wheeler, Community Member - That is okay, I used to work on these issues.

D. Noble explained that he did know that this issue is more than just the Spring Valley site and has the attention of the DoD, USACE, EPA. DOEE is very concerned about the issue as well. USACE does not want to come to the RAB with a Groundwater PP that does not have the concurrence of the regulators, but might not have a choice in the matter. USACE may have to come forward with USACE's position and submit the Groundwater PP for public comment.

Question from Mary Douglas, Community Member - What is DOEE's position?

J. Sweeney, DOEE explained that DOEE agrees with EPA; and agreed that this is a very

complicated situation.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I just want to remind everyone that there is a federal court order that the EPA is going to issue new perchlorate standards, that are going to be lower than 15. That was a federal judge. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) sued the EPA because they had not issued regulations and were years late. They agreed last December to come to a determination of a true national standard for perchlorate.

Question from Larry Miller, Community Member - As part of the process, has there been any estimate so far of the cost of total clean-up?

D. Noble explained that the cost varies greatly, depending on how active the clean-up is going to be. One of the alternatives considered in the Groundwater FS is to build a treatment plant and to treat the groundwater over a several-year period, which would be very expensive. Another alternative was to monitor the level of contamination in the groundwater and to inform those property owners who should not use their groundwater.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - That is not a total cleanup though. I am saying the cost of total clean-up, which would be the plant or other alternative. Is cost a factor in the decision, or is this a more legal/philosophical decision of total clean-up versus actual risk?

D. Noble explained that by law, cost is always a factor in the decision, but cost is not supposed to be the primary factor.

T. Smith, Community Member suggested that the subject of the disagreement between EPA and USACE would be suitable as a topic for a future meeting when all of the regulators may attend.

#### **D. 4825 Glenbrook Road**

Brenda Barber provided a brief update on 4825 Glenbrook Road.

##### **1. Recent Activities**

As USACE briefed the RAB over the last several months and particularly since the incident in August, a considerable amount of contamination has been encountered, including low levels of mustard (HD) and lewisite (L), along the shared property line between 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road. One of the protocols at the site is to test structural features that come into contact with contaminated soils. A section of the retaining wall between 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road in this instance failed analysis for HD and HD breakdown products. During the slight pause in intrusive activities, the team has been working on breaking up and rubblizing the concrete of the retaining wall at the site.

Question from G. Barton, Audience Member - Failed means what?

B. Barber explained that 'failed' means that HD and low levels of HD breakdown products were detected. The detections were primarily in the footer, which was likely poured on the soil. As the concrete dried and cured, the agent was entrained in the concrete.

Because of the incident in August and the resulting formation of the Board of Investigation (BOI), the site has been in an intrusive shut-down, but the teams have been allowed to continue non-intrusive work. The teams built a large containment sump with walls and lined the sump with geotextile fabric and plastic liners. In an abundance of caution, all activities related to demolishing the concrete is conducted in this containment sump, so all of the water and dust generated during the process is contained.

Part of the concrete rubblization process involves removing rebar from the concrete walls by hand. The rebar then has to be cut into smaller pieces so the pieces meet inbound disposal criteria for the incinerator. The rebar pieces are then placed in a drum for offsite disposal.

During the shut-down, the teams have been conducting site maintenance at Glenbrook Road and the federal property in an attempt to remain busy and prepare for winter.

## **2. Spring Valley BOI**

A safety incident occurred on August 9, and intrusive operations were shut down. Very quickly thereafter, the USACE Commander convened a BOI. The BOI has been diligently investigating the incident to assess the root cause and make recommendations for the site in order for intrusive work to resume. USACE reviewed a draft copy of the BOI Report to fact check the document. Several recommendations must be taken into account before plans may be made to return to intrusive work. The BOI reviewed volumes of information and interviewed all of the employees. The BOI Report is running behind schedule. Originally expected to be completed in October, the BOI Report is now projected to be completed in November. USACE expects to present the findings and recommendations of the BOI to the RAB at the January meeting.

The area of the August 9 incident was along the property line, in a small enclosed area where the team was hand-digging at the time. The area of the incident was not an area with active results that indicated low levels of HD and slightly past the area where L was encountered.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member - If the report is done in November, will you be able to start up work before the January RAB meeting?

B. Barber explained that no, another component of the 'return to work' schedule is the plan to investigate 4835 Glenbrook Road. USACE has secured a lease with AU to access the property. USACE plans to put in 15 borings; 2 in the front yard, 2 in the patio area, and the remaining borings will be in the basement. Some of the flooring and components of the finished basement will be pulled back. The boring hole will go through the flooring and concrete, and surface and subsurface sampling will be performed in the first row adjacent to where contamination has been encountered along the shared property line. If the samples come back 'non-detect,' USACE will propose to extend the sampling across the entire footprint of the property. If the samples indicate similar HD and L contamination that has been encountered along the shared property line; that will impact the decision as to whether USACE will expand the scope of the sampling or move ahead with a different alternative. The data from the sampling will be used to inform the 'return to work' plan as well as the findings in the BOI Report.

## **Future Activities**

- The BOI anticipates finishing the report in November, debrief on that report in January.
- Sampling to begin at 4835 Glenbrook Road on December 4.
- The USACE team will review the sampling results as well as the BOI Report to prepare a 'return to work' plan and seek regulatory and AU concurrence.

Question from Audience Member 1 - Back on the [ed. 4835 Glenbrook] Road sampling effort; it does not have anything about sampling the backyard area of 4835 Glenbrook Road?

B. Barber explained that USACE does not intend to sample the backyard area of the property at this time.



Comment from Audience Member 1 - That ground was never moved.

B. Barber explained that the backyard area of ground was moved as part of an arsenic removal action.

Question from Audience Member 1 - You all moved it?

B. Barber confirmed this.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - It was never moved when the homes were built.

D. Noble explained that there was a lot of excavation in the backyard during the 2008 investigative effort.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - Because in 1996, that is when people working planting bushes there at the AU had the same experience, that they still have the experiences and I know at that point for sure that the backyard had not been removed. And I know during all the construction the backyard was never removed. And that is why I am questioning, because I know in parts of that it could have been removed, in the crawlspaces that are only like two foot under the ground in the backyard area. And I know there is stuff in that, because I built it. And that is why I am questioning the areas that you are sampling and not going further in, so those areas you really need to check.

B. Barber explained that at this point the sampling approach is based on couple of factors. There are contractual and fiscal obligations driving the minimized first phase sampling approach. If positive results are seen, USACE does not want to destroy the home and spend a considerable amount of sampling if a different alternative will be chosen. B. Barber noted that she understood Audience Member 1's concerns. USACE performed a very detailed briefing on the entire chronology of the investigative effort at 4835 Glenbrook Road at the last RAB meeting. There has been extensive work in the backyard area previously.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - Since we do not meet until January, at what points along the way are there likely to be communications to the RAB and the public about what is developing with the BOI?

B. Barber explained that USACE will continue the weekly updates. Regarding the BOI, which was convened out of the USACE North Atlantic Division (NAD), the board president will issue the BOI Report to the Commander at USACE NAD. The board president will then brief the two District Engineers for both USACE Huntsville District and USACE Baltimore District. There are some formalities that will need to occur before USACE Baltimore receives a copy of the BOI Report. At that time USACE will begin to develop communications to the RAB and the public.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - It is at that point we would see the recommendations from the BOI that have to be implemented before things can continue?

B. Barber explained that she expects the recommendations will be presented at the January RAB meeting.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - You say the recommendations will not be there to release much before then anyway?

B. Barber confirmed this and explained that once USACE knows the BOI Report is finished and that those briefings are occurring, USACE will notify the public that progress is being made towards being able to release that information.

**Tentative schedule**

- Site operations will pause for the Thanksgiving holiday, beginning Wednesday, November 22. The team will resume work on Monday, November 27.
- The teams will conduct sampling at 4835 Glenbrook Road the week of December 4. That process should take about a week to 2 weeks, depending on how well that process goes.
- USACE anticipates that with the sampling effort and other activities at the site, the teams will work through Thursday, December 21 and return on January 3.
- The site will likely move into a temporary shutdown, possibly in December but definitely by January. At that time the teams will work to develop a 'return to work' plan.
- Complete the Remedial Action, restore the site, and return the property to AU.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - Who is on the BOI? Are there people who have been actively involved in the site, like you and Dan Noble?

B. Barber explained that USACE Team members were not allowed to participate on the board. The board is independent, made up of USACE personnel, personnel from Public Health Command, a chemist from Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), S. Hirsh, EPA Region III, and J. Sweeney, DOEE.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - So this is all from paper? It is all from data?

B. Barber and D. Noble explained that the BOI convened on-site for the first two weeks in order to conduct a robust investigation, which included a long one-day site visit, interviewing all of the site personnel and staff, and reviews of all of the workplans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and medical testing.

**III. Community Items**

D. Noble wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

**IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development****A. Upcoming Meeting Topics**

- Groundwater FS Study/ Disagreement between EPA and USACE
- Site-Wide RD/RA
- 4825 Glenbrook Road/4835 Glenbrook Road
- Glenbrook Road Incident - BOI recommendations

**B. Next RAB Meeting:**

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

**C. Open Discussion****V. Public Comments**

Question from George Vassiliou, Community Member - Just to clarify, the remediation for the PSB will begin winter of 2018? And will go through 2020?

D. Noble confirmed that the remediation will begin winter of 2018, but expect the effort will only take a few months. The overall Site-Wide remediation effort of the 91 homes will extend into 2020.

Question from G. Barton, Audience Member - What is the winter of 2018, now or the end of the

year?

D. Noble explained that the most likely the dates are January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018.

Question from Audience Member 1 - I have got a question, and I am going to direct it to the RAB. I do not know when I am emailing back and forth, and unless I am sitting face-to-face with you, I cannot tie names to faces. I had some emails for a while, going back and forth with some people at USACE. I emailed back because USACE wanted to speak with my doctor. My doctor does not want to talk to them. My doctor asked for information. I emailed for this information, twice. Maybe they did not go to the right person. So I am asking the RAB to help me. I need to know every possible chemical that was found at that property; and short and long term effects in order for my doctor to help me.

B. Barber replied "You were emailing with..."

Comment from Audience Member 1 - I got so many emails from so many people; I do not know who I got them from.

B. Barber explained that she understood, but with respect to health-related concerns, USACE put Audience Member 1 in contact with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), which was trying to facilitate a health consultation for Audience Member 1.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - But everybody I have talked to wants me to go to your doctor. I want to go to my doctor. And my doctor will guide me where I need to go.

B. Barber explained that ATSDR had offered that Audience Member 1 and his family could go to an occupational health physician.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - And ATSDR was supposed to have contacted me on a certain day. Now, I did not get no call from ATSDR on that day, but that may have been because I had no phone service. And there was no recurrence of them trying to call me from that point on.

B. Barber explained that the contact at ATSDR indicated to B. Barber that ATSDR tried to contact Audience Member 1 several times. B. Barber offered that USACE would reach back out to the ATSDR and ask the ATSDR contact to make contact again with Audience Member 1.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - Because I can even pull my phone records to prove it, if I have to.

B. Barber explained that the Health Consultation Report that was sent to Audience Member 1 through the mail and through emails describes all of the potential health contaminant that have been found at the site.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - I never received an email on this. It is the only kind of contact with you I have got.

B. Barber explained that she personally emailed the Health Consultation Report to Audience Member 1 and also sent hard copies to Audience Member 1 and his father.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - Well, I have not received it.

Comment from Audience Member 2 - I have never got anything.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - So I am reaching out to the RAB to please help me.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member - Can the Army send the ATSDR report to your doctor?

Question from Audience Member 1 - My doctor wants nothing to do with them; he does not want his name mentioned or anything. I am doing what my doctor asked me to do.

B. Barber explained that USACE cannot give Audience Member 1 medical advice.

Question from Audience Member 1 - I do not want medical advice; I want all the chemical listings that has been found, that is all I am asking for. And short and long time possible health effects.

B. Barber explained that she would then need another possible way to get the Health Consultation Report to Audience Member 1. USACE has tried emails, the Health Consultation Report is posted on the website, B. Barber provided Audience Member 1 with a link to the website, and has mailed hard copies.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - And I would not be here tonight, but I am trying to get help.

Comment from G. Vassiliou, Community Member - So maybe, if I may suggest, that you bring the report to the next RAB meeting and you can come to that maybe.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - And that depends on what my job, I am 5 hours.

Comment from Audience Member 2 - You bring it, I will be here.

Comment from J. Wheeler, Community Member - Just for everybody's information, all of the environmental data that has been collected at the site is publicly available, and everybody has access to that.

Question from Audience Member 2 - Where is this at?

J. Wheeler, Community Member explained that one place is on the web.

Comment from Audience Member 2 - Well I do not have web.

J. Wheeler, Community Member explained that the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library would have hard copies of all the data.

Question from M. Pritzker, Community Member - There is no dispute that he is entitled to the information. The problem is to get the information to him. There is such a thing as express mail, there is UPS.

B. Barber confirmed she has tried both of those methods, and has also tried certified mail.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - It could not have been signed for, my mail goes in a mailbox and there is no one at my house, it went to somebody else. If it was sent certified I would have to go 11 miles to the post office to pick it up. All I have is a box out there and they would give a card, I have never signed for anything.

Comment from J. Wheeler, Community Member - It sounds like we have a solution. A hard copy will be brought to the next RAB meeting and hand-delivered to Audience Member 2.

Comment from Audience Member 1 - We live out in the country, guys. It is not like we are here in the city. You have got internet and all that. We do not have it out there. Even high speed does not work.

M. Pritzker explained that there is no dispute that Audience Member 1 will get the information. It is just a matter of getting the information to Audience Member 1. Audience Member 1 has the RAB's support. Somebody can come to the next RAB meeting and the Health Consultation Report will be handed to them.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - If anybody is looking for gifts; today a new book came out on Spring Valley called Hellfire Boys by Theo Emery. He is giving a book talk this Friday at the Wharf. Theo Emery is a reporter for the New York Times and he has written a book about Spring Valley, and about the chemical weapons here, called Hellfire Boys.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.