



## **SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROJECT**

### **RAB Meeting**

**September 13, 2016**  
**7:00 – 8:30 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
- 7:10 p.m. II. USACE Program Updates**  
Groundwater Study  
Site-Wide Proposed Plan  
Glenbrook Road  
Pilot Project
- 7:50 p.m. III. Community Items**
- 8:00 p.m. IV. Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development**  
Upcoming Meeting Topics:  
▪ (Suggestions?)  
▪ Site-Wide Decision Document  
  
\*Next meeting: November 15, 2016
- 8:15 p.m. V. Public Comments**
- 8:30 p.m. VI. Adjourn**

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

# SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

## Restoration Advisory Board Meeting 13 September 2016

“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

## USACE Updates

- Groundwater Study
- Site-Wide Proposed Plan
- Glenbrook Road
- Pilot Project

## Community Items

## Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development

## Public Comments



# CO-CHAIR UPDATES

## Introductions



# CO-CHAIR UPDATES

## Announcements

### – Website Updates:

- July and August Monthly Site-Wide Project Updates
- Weekly 4825 Glenbrook Rd Project Updates with photos
- July RAB meeting minutes
- April and June Partner meeting minutes
- Information on the 30-day public comment period extension
- September Corps'pondent



# TASK GROUP UPDATES



# GROUNDWATER STUDY

## USACE Updates



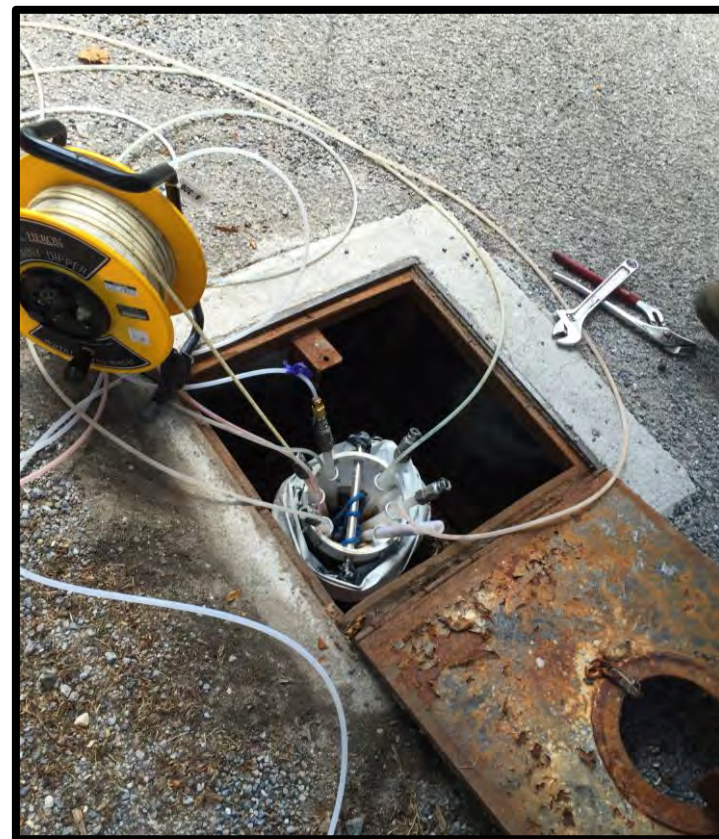
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# GROUNDWATER REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION (RI) REPORT

The Army Corps team addressed our regulatory Partners' (US EPA and DOEE) comments on the Draft Final Groundwater RI report.

The Final Groundwater RI report has been scheduled to be available to the public by the end of September.

Once the Groundwater RI is finalized, the team will prepare the Feasibility Study (FS) analysis. Viable remedial action alternatives will be presented for public review in the Groundwater Proposed Plan.



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# SITE-WIDE PROPOSED PLAN

USACE Updates



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# SITE-WIDE PROPOSED PLAN

During the 45-day public comment period, which ran until July 28<sup>th</sup>, the team received several comments for the draft Site-Wide Proposed Plan and have granted a request to extend the comment period an additional 30 days to provide feedback.



This extension means public comments will continue to be accepted through **September 28, 2016**.

- For more information regarding the Proposed Plan, including instructions for submitting comments, visit the Proposed Plan page: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Spring-Valley/Proposed-Plan/>
- The Proposed Plan is also at the Tenley-Friendship Library.
- Written responses to all submitted public comments will be included in the Decision Document, which is scheduled to be finalized and released by late Fall 2016.



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# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>September 28, 2016</b>	End of extended public comment period on the <b>Proposed Plan</b> .
<b>Late Fall 2016</b>	Prepare and sign the <b>Decision Document</b> .
<b>Winter 2016</b>	Contract acquisition work. <b>Begin Remedial Design</b> .
<b>~2017-2020</b>	Conduct <b>Remedial Action</b> .



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# 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD

## USACE Updates



## 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD

In July, the crew completed the removal of the high probability operations tent from the project site.



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# CRANE WORK



In early August, the crane was repositioned at the site to assist in the removal of the remaining heavy equipment and the large Chemical Agent Filtration Systems located near the back of the property.



The crane departed the site on August 18th.



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## 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD



The crews began construction of the roll-off placement pad to prepare the site for the upcoming low probability excavation activities.

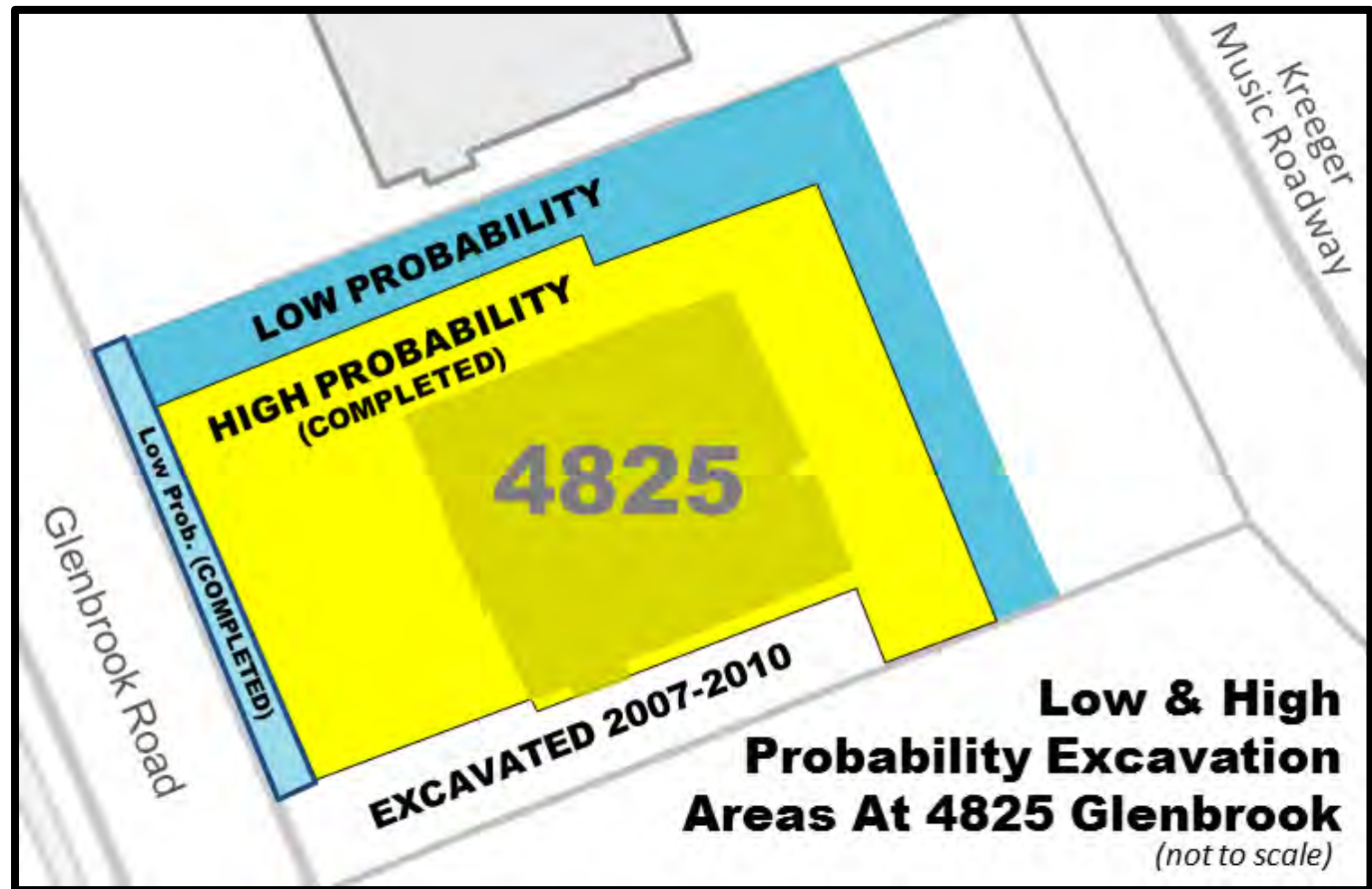


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# LOW PROBABILITY

Low probability operations will include remedial action in previously identified areas of potential concern for soil contamination.

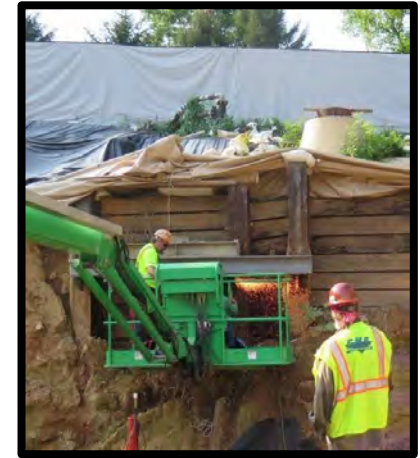
Crews will continue to follow strict safety protocols while excavating on site. Extensive air monitoring will continue to be conducted as we perform our low probability operations.



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# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- ✓ December 2012 through May 2013  
*Site Preparation/ Initial Low Probability Work*
- ✓ May 2013 through September 2013  
*ECS Set Up, High Probability training, & Pre-Operational Exercises*
- ✓ September 2013 through June 2016  
*High Probability Excavation (Shelter-in-Place program ended May 27)*



➡ **Summer 2016**  
*Tent Demobilization & Site Preparation for Final Low Probability Excavation*

**September 2016 through Spring 2017**  
*Final Low Probability Excavation*

**Spring 2017 through Summer 2017**  
*Site Restoration*



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# AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCE AND DISEASE REGISTRY (ATSDR): 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD HEALTH CONSULTATION

The ATSDR public comment period ended June 20<sup>th</sup>

- The final ATSDR report *"Health Consultation - An Exposure and Health Effects Evaluation of Former Workers and Residents to Chemical Contamination at 4825 Glenbrook Road within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Washington, District of Columbia"* was released August 26, 2016.
- A summary of the public comments and ATSDR responses are in an appendix of the finalized document.
- For more information on the final report, including the report itself, you can visit their website at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/springvalley/index.html>



# GEOPHYSICAL PILOT PROJECT

## USACE Updates



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# FIELD WORK

## Landscape removal

- The team discussed the landscape appraisals with the participating properties.
- Some plants were candidates for transplanting. These select plants were carefully removed and wrapped in burlap. They are currently being watered at a local nursery until reinstallation this fall.



# FIELD WORK

## Calibration

- The team calibrates their surveying equipment at the Federal Property, behind Sibley Hospital, every day.



# FIELD WORK

## Geophysical Survey

— The team completed the initial geophysical survey of the three participating properties.



# FIELD WORK

## Geophysical Characterization Survey

- The team began their follow-up survey to characterize any detected metallic anomalies. This characterization of the anomalies will test both instruments to see how well they identify the metallic objects under the soil.
- This survey will help determine the list of anomalies that will be intrusively investigated and removed.



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# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>Late Summer– Early Fall 2016</b>	<b>Field Work:</b> Geophysical Characterization Survey; Anomaly Excavation; Landscape Restoration.
<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Data Evaluation.</b>
<b>December 2016</b>	<b>Pilot Test Report.</b>



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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



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## *Community Items*



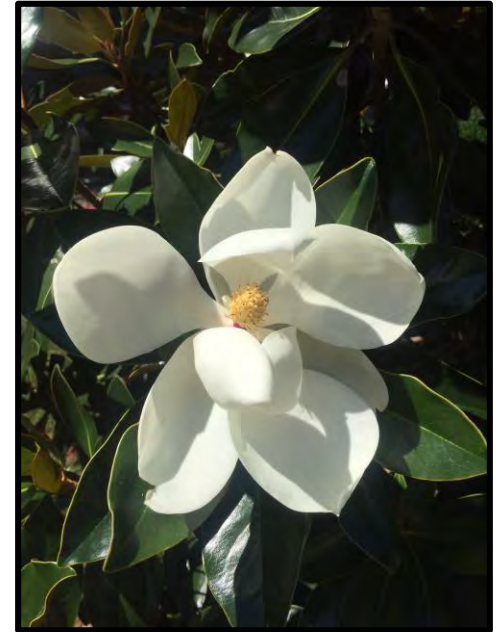
# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

## Reminders:

- The next RAB meeting will be  
Tuesday, November 15th

## Upcoming Agenda Items: Suggestions?

- Site-Wide Decision Document



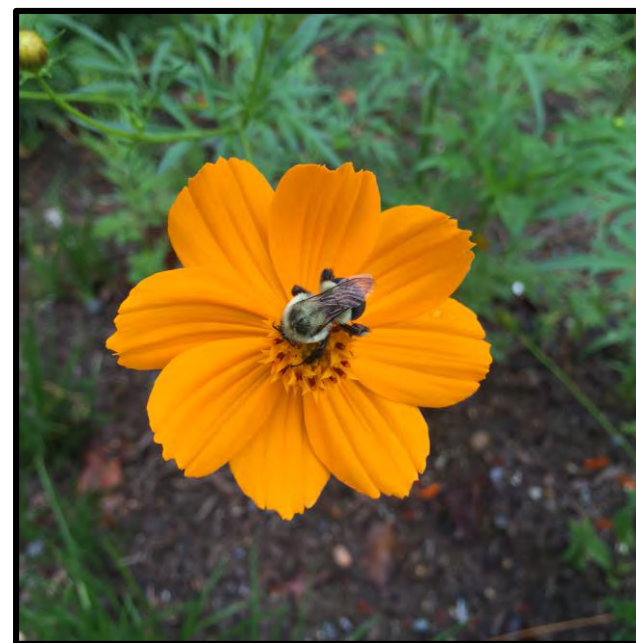
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# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

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## Public Comments

## Wrap-Up



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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the September 2016 Meeting**

<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
Linda Argo	At Large Representative – American University
Dr. Peter deFur (represented by Laura Williams)	Environmental Stewardship Concepts/RAB TAPP Consultant
Ralph Cantral	Community Member
Steve Hirsh	Agency Representative – US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
William Krebs	Community Member
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
John Wheeler	Community Member
Alma Gates	At Large Representative – Horace Mann Elementary School
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Mary Douglas	Community Member
George Vassiliou	Community Member
<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
James Sweeney	Agency Representative – Department of Energy & Environment
Tom Smith	Community Member
Malcolm Pritzker	Community Member
Kathleen Connell	Community Member
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
<b>ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL</b>	
Alex Zahl	USACE, Spring Valley Technical Manager
Chris Gardner	USACE, Corporate Communications Office

Rebecca Yahiel	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Carrie Johnston	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Holly Hostetler	ERT, Inc.
<b>HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING</b>	
I. Final Agenda for the September 13, 2016 RAB Meeting II. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation III. September 2016 <i>Corps' pondent</i> IV. August 2016 Monthly Project Summary	

## **AGENDA**

**Starting Time:** The July 2016 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting began at 7:10 PM.

### **I. Administrative Items**

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

Dan Noble, Spring Valley Project Manager and Military Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. D. Noble noted that this was the final RAB meeting in the government's fiscal year, so he will be able to sum up the budget and finance situation for the past year and preview the coming year at the next RAB meeting in November.

D. Noble reviewed the agenda including the Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI), the Pilot Project, the Site-Wide Proposed Plan (PP), and 4825 Glenbrook Road. D. Noble also noted that the next regularly scheduled RAB meeting is November 8, 2016, which coincides with Election Day. For that reason he recommended changing the day of the next meeting.

#### **1. Introductions**

None.

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

D. Noble reviewed website updates which included the July and August monthly project updates, the weekly 4825 Glenbrook Road updates and photos, July RAB meeting minutes pending possible changes concerning public comments, April and June Partner Meeting Minutes, Site-Wide Proposed Plan (PP) with information about the comment period extension, Site-Wide PP fact sheets, September 2016 Corps' pondent, and a link to the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) website for the final health consultation on 4825 Glenbrook Road.

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

No task group updates were presented.

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

#### **A. Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI)**

D. Noble provided a brief status update on the Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI). The

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues to work with US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and Dr. Peter deFur, Environmental Stewardship Concepts/RAB TAPP Consultant on the comments concerning the Site-Wide RI report. The Groundwater RI report should be finalized and available online before the end of September. USACE will send a notice to all the RAB members when the Groundwater RI report has been released. Meanwhile USACE is internally reviewing the draft Feasibility Study (FS) associated with the Groundwater RI.

## **B. Site-Wide Proposed Plan (PP)**

D. Noble briefly reviewed the Site-Wide Proposed Plan.

USACE began a 45 day public comment period for the Site-Wide Proposed Plan (PP) on June 13, which ended July 28, 2016. USACE held a public meeting for the Site-Wide PP on July 14, 2016 at the Bender Arena on the campus of American University (AU). There was a good turnout, many homeowners attended the meeting. Articles were published in the Northwest Current about the meeting. A number of public comments were received. One of the comments received was a request for an extension of the comment period. D. Noble had been under the mistaken impression that USACE had some discretion concerning granting extensions and did not act on that request immediately. It was later pointed out that the first request for an extension must be granted by mandatory rule for at least 30 days. As a result, USACE has granted an extension of the comment period by 30 days, ending on September 28, 2016. USACE sent out a notice that the extended public comment period has been opened. The same rules for submission apply; emails must be posted before midnight on the September 28 and written comments must be postmarked by September 28. The public may call USACE and ask that a comment be entered into the record. When the extension period is over, USACE will add in any new public comments to the comments already received. All of the comments will become part of the Site-Wide Decision Document (DD).

Question from Allen Hengst, Audience Member – I just wanted to make sure I heard you correctly, because I know requests for extensions have been made in the past and not granted. Are you saying that the only reason that it was granted this time was because it is the rule; that you have to grant it if one person asks for the extension? Is that what you just said?

D. Noble confirmed this. Under the National Contingency Plan (NCP), if there is a timely request for an extension, USACE will grant the first one. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidance for proposed plans, USACE will extend the announced public comment period.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member – And the fact that a month of August intervened between the extension and the end of the first period was because you still did not know?

D. Noble explained that no, he thought he had discretion.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member – And you did not find out until the end of August?

D. Noble confirmed this.

## **1. Schedule**

The public comment period and the finalization of the Site-Wide PP will be delayed until September 28. USACE will then compile and submit the Site-Wide DD to USEPA and DOEE

for their review. Once concurrence among the regulatory agencies is secured, USACE will seek internal signatures in order to put a contract in place to carry out the work to begin the Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA). USACE still plans to begin the RA sometime in 2017. The 2 month delay should not interfere with that goal. USACE will keep the RAB updated on the schedule, and at the November RAB meeting will provide a summary of the types of comments USACE received for the Site-Wide Proposed Plan.

### **C. 4825 Glenbrook Road**

Dan Noble provided a brief review of 4825 Glenbrook Road.

At the last RAB meeting, activities at 4825 Glenbrook Road were at the start of the process of dismantling all of the engineering control structure and removing the high probability equipment off of the site. A large crane was used to lift large sections of fabric off of the large tent, remove steel girders from the tent, and dismantle the ductwork and other systems.

Support equipment such as the mobile laboratory which was conducting real time air monitoring and three of the chemical agent filtration systems were craned off of the site as well. There was quite a bit of framework to dismantle at the site. The crane finished work and departed on August 18. Activities then moved to bringing in clean fill dirt and gravel to prepare a flat area to work from during low probability excavations.

At the start of work in 2012, USACE excavated to bedrock along the sidewalk and road area on the front of the property that borders Glenbrook Road. Low probability excavations in that area have been completed. The areas that remain run along the property boundary with the AU president's house and the curved retaining wall that was in the back of the property.

All of the high probability engineering controls are gone, but USACE will continue to conduct real time air monitoring as well as perimeter air monitoring every day as excavations continue.

#### **1. Schedule**

- High probability excavation was completed June 2016.
- Demobilization and site preparation for final low probability excavation was completed this summer.
- Low probability excavation will resume on September 19. The same protocols will be in place for open air excavation with air monitoring.
- Restoration of the property will begin in spring 2017 through summer 2017.

#### **2. Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Health Consult Report**

On June 20, the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) completed a public comment period for the public draft of the ATSDR health consult report for 4825 Glenbrook Road. ATSDR released their final report on the property including a summary of comments they received and their responses to those comments. The final report is available for download at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/springvalley/index.html>, and there is a link to the report on the USACE website.

Question from Ginny Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Before we leave 4825 Glenbrook Road, I have a question about 4835 Glenbrook Road, the AU president's house. How are you dealing with that? I also wanted to point out that in the RAB minutes of May 2016, a worker from West Virginia who worked on the two houses came down to the RAB meeting

and said what I thought was a very important thing. He said the amount of cement in the floor of the garage at 4835 Glenbrook Road was 10-12 inches deep and how deep did you bore when you did your test boring at 4835 Glenbrook Road? And there was no answer in the RAB minutes, and that comment got excluded from the RAB minutes. And here is a man who helped build this house and he was basically kind of giving some information, knowing how deep the cement was and asking you how deep you bored. And they are the ones that also feel there was a lot of stuff buried under 4835 Glenbrook Road.

D. Noble explained that he would have to go back to look at USACE's reports on the property, but USACE did bore through the concrete.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – How deep?

D. Noble explained that USACE bored all the way through.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – To the other side, which was?

D. Noble explained that he would have to look at the reports to see how deep USACE found the concrete to be when it was bored through. The boring hole did go through and D. Noble believed the boring hole reached the gravel underneath and down into the bedrock at the site. He thought USACE had some estimate as to how close the bedrock was to the bottom of the slab.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – So my request would be something could be put in those RAB minutes that he attended the meeting, and that he exhibited knowledge of the construction of the houses and what was where, because he also referred to the cement and the porch, you know, in back and stuff. But none of that is mentioned at all in the RAB minutes the way they ended up being presented as final RAB minutes.

D. Noble explained that USACE can go back and listen to the recording and see how it compares with what was written. Again, USACE has said many times that the minutes are not an exact transcript.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – No, I know that. But I think this is important information for the official record that workers came of their own volition to kind of let you know that they knew what was going on in terms of the construction of the house.

D. Noble explained that there was also tremendous amount of discussion that occurred after the meeting adjourned as well, so that would not be captured in the meeting minutes.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – That would not what?

D. Noble explained that if what they are remembering was something that was spoken after.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – No, what I am remembering is what I recorded and I have a transcript of, and so my transcript will not be as good as your transcript, but it will be reasonably accurate. That is what they said.

D. Noble explained that USACE will go back and check that to make sure that the minutes did not leave something out.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Thank you,

and my other question is where is 4835 Glenbrook Road in all of this?

D. Noble explained that USACE is standing by the conclusions of the USACE report and Risk Assessment for the property.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – In spite of what they say?

D. Noble confirmed this, unless there is new significant documentable evidence that comes to light. USACE is still open to the idea of walking the site with the workers if they would like to come.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – You have contact information for them; why do you not do that?

D. Noble explained that USACE has made attempts to contact the workers.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – But I would pay close attention because maybe they are giving you clues as to what they think is there then. I mean I just do not understand why 4835 Glenbrook Road gets off completely scot-free, the footprint of the house. I know that you have done a lot of testing in the yard.

D. Noble explained that he would be willing to come and lay out for the RAB essentially the details of the report and what the conclusions of the report were.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – No, but we do not need that because we all know that you did a lot of really good testing in the whole property. You did a lot of tests and I believe you when you say that you feel based on those tests that the yard is clear. But you did not do anything under the house and that is what the workers keep referring to. That is all I am saying. It is under the house, under the footprint alone.

Question from George Vassiliou, Community Member – What did the workers say was under the house?

G. Durrin replied that they do not say, this is my personal opinion.

Question from G. Vassiliou, Community Member – What did they say, not what they did not say?

G. Durrin replied, what did they say? The worker stood up and he said, because [the woman] who lives across the street from it wants it checked out, because she is impacted, she is right downhill from it. And he said I do not want to hold you up, because this is the end of the meeting, but the cement is 12 inches deep in the garage at 4835 Glenbrook Road, how deep did you drill? And then he also referred to the cement in the crawlspace in the back of the house, the back porch area. So all I am saying is he has a working knowledge, because he helped build those parts of the house and I do not think that they would be stuck on this for so many years and not have some cause for it. I mean why would they do that?

Question from G. Vassiliou, Community Member – But he did not say there were weapons underneath, or something like bombs or whatever?

G. Durrin replied no, they would not say that though. They would not because they know enough to know it is not really good to say I buried the weapons there. I mean, who would do that? But to me it was like he was giving a hint. But it was not, and they have never referred to any weapons, they have only referred to bottles.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – But I am just amazed that you cannot respond to them, even if you negate them and say well we do not believe you or we do not dig up things that are entombed, at least the top of them is entombed in cement. We do not care, we do not need to go look for munitions.

Comment from G. Vassiliou, Community Member – But Dan just said that they drilled through.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – He just did one boring hole in the cement.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – A hole about that wide in the center of the house. One hole, that wide.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Steve, what do you think, in terms of checking out a house, or talking to the workers? Why are you not trying to really ask the workers to talk with you?

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member – I do not want to stir the pot here and cause a lot of controversy, but this is the fourth time the workers have commented. Ginny supplied you with a video tape transcript and two audio transcripts, plus you have the transcript from the May RAB meeting. I have the recording as well. You have the recording of what they said at that meeting. Since the purpose of the May meeting was to gather comments on the Proposed Plan, are you going to respond to their comments finally in the Decision Document in a formal way? Are you formally going to respond to what the workers have reported to you on four separate occasions?

D. Noble explained USACE will formally respond to comments received during the public comment period.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member – What about at the May meeting? That was a comment period too.

Chris Gardner, USACE, Corporate Communications Office explained that the public comment period was for the ATSDR report.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – They were at the May RAB meeting.

C. Gardner reiterated that the May meeting was during the public comment period for the ATSDR report.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member – So that does not count because they did not submit them during July and September, even though they were speaking about 4835 Glenbrook Road at the May RAB meeting, you are not going to count that?

D. Noble explained that the comment must be submitted during the public comment period, and must be submitted in a formal manner so USACE understands the formal comment is being submitted.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – How would they know that? They live in West Virginia. They do not read all the things that come from the Army necessarily.

D. Noble explained that the law tells USACE what to do and what USACE needs to do, and USACE did it.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – I know,

but no. I am just talking about common human sense. I think even for AU's protection, they would like to know that their house is safe. And talk person to person with these workers and deal with it from that point on.

D. Noble explained that as stated before, USACE is open to that. USACE would like the workers to come and walk the site.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Have you contacted them and asked them?

D. Noble confirmed that USACE has contacted the workers.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Since that May meeting?

D. Noble explained that the workers were contacted prior to the May RAB meeting.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – No, since that May meeting?

D. Noble explained that he did not know, and would have to talk to Brenda Barber.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – How many workers were there? There were three separate workers speaking at that meeting.

Comment from Greg Beumel, Community Co-Chair – Submit a comment along those lines and then USACE will have to address it in the report.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Listen, it does not do any good. They will say they will not take it. If I say so-and-so said something, they will say, well we will not take it.

Greg Beumel explained that you do not have to say it as a secondary; you can comment that USACE should contact the workers and that they should walk the site. It is a comment that you can make on your own.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member – Ok, it will not do any good. It just gets buried in the report.

Greg Beumel explained then continuing this discussion here is not going to do any good either. You have a regulator here; you can talk to him as well.

Question from Alma Gates, At Large Representative, Horace Mann Elementary School – What role does Paul Chrostowski, CPF Associates, play in AU's residence? Does he have comments to make on it?

D. Noble explained that he did not know, Paul does not work for USACE.

Question from A. Gates, At Large Representative, Horace Mann Elementary School – I know that, but since he works for AU, one would assume he has been keeping abreast of the situation. Has he submitted comments?

Question from D. Noble, USACE – On the PP or during the public comment period?

A. Gates clarified 4835 Glenbrook Road.

D. Noble confirmed this.

Comment from A. Gates, At Large Representative, Horace Mann Elementary School – I would refer you to his comments.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Or to him. I will back down if I am just crazy, but the fact is these people for many years now have been talking about this, and I do not think they are liars. I really do not.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – There were 3, right? There were 3 workers speaking out at the May RAB meeting about 4835 Glenbrook Road.

D. Noble noted that he will return to this topic during the public comment portion at the end of the meeting for further discussion. If the RAB did not have any comments on the first 3 agenda items, the last agenda item needed to be presented.

## **D. Pilot Project Update**

Alex Zahl, Spring Valley Technical Manager, reviewed the Geophysical Pilot Project.

### **1. Summary**

In early August, USACE secured Rights of Entry (ROEs) for 3 Pilot Test Properties. USACE discussed with the property owners which landscaped areas needed to be removed. An arborist visited the properties to conduct an appraisal of the selected plants. USACE gave the homeowners the option to receive a check for the value of the plants, allow USACE to replace the plants in kind, or have the plants transplanted. For transplanting, a landscaper evaluated the plants to determine the feasibility of transplanting, and then moved the plants to a nursery for storage and maintenance until the Pilot Project is complete. In an effort to minimize the impact of the Pilot Project on the homeowners, USACE noted that homeowners often chose the transplant option, and will offer that option during the full scale remediation.

The Advance Classification (AC) system used to identify Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) items works together with two geophysical scanning devices: the Time-domain Electromagnetic Multi-sensor Towed Array Detection System (TEMTADS) and Man Portable Vector (MPV). These devices are fairly new in test phases, so the Department of Defense (DoD) experts from the Navy Research Laboratory (NRL) are working together with USACE on the Pilot Project. A test strip called the Instrument Verification Strip (IVS) is used every morning and afternoon to ensure that the equipment remains calibrated.

The TEMTADS and MPV have similar electromagnetic processes. The TEMTADS is moved along the ground similar to a lawnmower, enabling the device to follow tracks on the property. The MPV is more portable, so tracks are created with strings for the device to follow. The initial test is in dynamic mode, which means the instrument is moving across the ground. At the end of the dynamic test, the data collected is used to create a target list called a ‘cued’ list. A cued test means that the device is placed directly over an underground metallic object. The instrument is in place for 30 to 60 seconds. The instrument sends a great deal of electromagnetic signals, recording the decay functions of the metal item, which helps identify the item as a munition or a horseshoe.

The AC system has a library of all DoD ordnance. USACE has been using blind seeds as part of the test. The cued survey phase of the Pilot Project will be completed next week. Using the data collected from both devices, USACE will determine which items would be selected for excavation. However, for the Pilot Project, USACE will excavate 100% of the anomalies detected to prove whether or not the systems are accurately identifying items. If the Pilot Project is

successful, USACE will be able to use the AC system to determine which anomalies are of potential concern, which will reduce the amount of disruption to properties during the full scale remediation.

## 2. Schedule

- Late Summer-Early Fall 2016 - Survey work completed, excavation list developed by early October. Excavation completed by mid-October, begin restoration.
- Fall 2016 - Data Evaluation.
- December 2016 - Pilot Test Report.

Question from William Krebs, Community Member – How deep do the instruments read?

A. Zahl explained that USACE is making that determination now, but estimates 2 to 3 feet.

Question from W. Krebs, Community Member – That does not necessarily go all the way to the bedrock?

A. Zahl confirmed this. He added that the instruments are the best equipment available in order to do as much scanning as possible.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member – Why not use the Pilot Project to test the garage or basement at 4835 Glenbrook Road?

A. Zahl explained that most garages have rebar or wire mesh that the instruments cannot scan through. Several of the driveways on the Pilot Project properties cannot be scanned through. If USACE detects an object in the driveway, a hole will be cut in the driveway, the object removed, and the driveway repaired.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member – Would there be rebar in the floor of the basement or garage?

A. Zahl explained that it would be unusual for a 12 inch cement floor to be poured without rebar.

D. Noble added that 4825 Glenbrook Road had rebar in the concrete.

Question from Mary Douglas, Community Member – At the May meeting, there were several people who were in extreme circumstances trying to hurry up this process. Were your 3 pilot participants from among those people?

A. Zahl explained that no, the properties were selected based on geophysical data already obtained. About half of the Spring Valley properties had investigations completed 5 to 10 years ago. USACE scanned as much of each property as possible with older equipment such as the instrument EM-61, and removed the most likely targets. The electromagnetic (EM) data indicated that the 3 Pilot Project properties were in areas of high signal interference, unusual topography, and a number of other considerations that USACE wanted to evaluate as part of the Pilot Project. USACE chose the more difficult properties intentionally on that basis. Out of the 5 selected properties, 3 homeowners agreed to participate.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member – Have there been people who came forward in response to Dan's invitation to sort of make it known if they would like to be high on the list?

D. Noble explained that yes, a number of people have told USACE that they would appreciate that consideration, and so USACE is assembling a list. USACE has not formally told everyone that the list is possible yet. There has been some discussion at meetings, and USACE is going to

consider homeowners that volunteer to be a priority. There have been about 15 homeowners that have contacted USACE so far.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member – So will they be the first 15 as far as you know, or will there be other technical reasons?

D. Noble explained that to be fair to everyone, USACE will make sure that everybody knows about this option and if it is of concern to them they will have a chance to let USACE know as well. He has told the first 15 that he has placed them on the list, but USACE's ability to respond to that request is going to be based on the total number of requests received.

Question from Rob Liberatore, Audience Member – I am one of those property owners and I have not heard that I am on the list. I have written several times about it. I have lived in my house for 26 years. I suggest that maybe you use criteria of longevity on the property; those people are more likely to want to move. In my case my wife died. I desperately want to sell this house, and I cannot. How do I know that I am on this list?

D. Noble explained that if he has not responded, he apologizes. You are definitely on the list.

Question from R. Liberatore, Audience Member – I would urge you to consider, if you are looking for objective criteria, longevity. I have been on this property for 26 years. Somebody who has just moved in two years ago is going to be much less likely to need to sell. Are you going to consider objective criteria like that?

D. Noble explained that USACE has not developed a priority scheme yet. He is certainly open to people who say they have a priority and would like to go first. Again, if only 15 or 20 requests are received, there is no need to establish objective criteria. However, when USACE contacts all 93 homeowners, and 50 homeowners want to be prioritized, then USACE will have to start considering what criteria can be used to establish a priority scheme.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Do you already know where the larger [interference] signals are?

A. Zahl explained that Miss Utility will come to mark out the properties because there will be intrusive anomaly excavation performed. USACE will use those utility marks to determine where some of the signal sources are, which will be taken into account when the survey results are reviewed.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Are these the same signals found in 1993 and 1994?

A. Zahl explained that there is a certain threshold for each property. Each property is different. Sometimes the front of the yard is different from the back of the yard, or there are soil considerations. USACE will attempt to identify as many variables as possible in the Pilot Project, so the data may be used for the remediation of the remaining properties. The EM-61, a standard instrument, was used for previous work completed. The background noise was determined, which would become the threshold. Anything above that threshold would be a potential target that would be marked and excavated.

Comment from Steve Hirsh, Agency Representative - US EPA, Region III – The Magnetometer (MAG) and EM-61 were used. An earlier version of the instruments was used in 1993.

A. Zahl confirmed this; an earlier version of the instruments were used in 1993, which did the

same thing. If there are signals along an underground power line, that interference is understood. D. Noble added that the cued data is being collected at this time, establishing where the targets are believed to be, and seeing what the results of the cueing indicate; whether an item is a military object or not. There has been no excavation performed yet, other than plants.

Question from John Wheeler, Community Member – What were the criteria for choosing properties for the first geophysical surveys?

D. Noble explained that was part of the Remedial Investigation (RI). The decisions were based on areas of the neighborhood that USACE had either good information or suspicion that Army activity had occurred in those areas, resulting in a residual hazard or problem left behind.

Question from J. Wheeler, Community Member – So it did not have anything to do with the arsenic?

S. Hirsh explained that yes, in the early 1990s the areas selected were based on points of interest. Basically, an old 1986 photo was reviewed, and areas were selected. Again, in that time frame, an item could have been 5 yards away from where the photo indicated. The technology used for surveys and excavation was not as advanced as the technologies used since 2001. At that point it was “MAG and flag;” if an anomaly was discovered with a magnetometer, the anomaly was flagged and excavated to see what it was. That was state-of-the-art 25 years ago. What has been done more recently was an analysis. There were factors considered when deciding what properties to investigate, and arsenic level was one of those factors. An algorithm was designed to create a score for each property, which S. Hirsh believed was done for the whole Spring Valley neighborhood. Arsenic level was one thing considered to score each of the approximately 1,400 properties. Remediation priority started with those properties that had the highest score and worked their way down. Approximately 100 properties were investigated.

Question from J. Wheeler, Community Member – So some of the houses that are being investigated have been done before?

S. Hirsh and A. Zahl explained that half of the approximately 96 properties for the final remediation have been previously geophysically investigated.

Question from J. Wheeler, Community Member – So they are going to be looked at again, and that is because they are in a target area?

S. Hirsh confirmed this.

Question from J. Wheeler, Community Member – That means a higher level of evaluating?

S. Hirsh explained that in the past the working rule was if USACE addressed a property, the whole property was investigated. Now a property may only have a section investigated. The data obtained from the 3 properties during the Pilot Project will be compared to the original data to judge the old system and ascertain if anything was gained from the new system. The new system also allows more access to obstacles such as trees and the sides of buildings. The new system can scan up to 40 cm away from the side of a house. These improvements make the investigation incrementally better than it was before. If the Pilot Project is successful, there will be a lot less excavation.

#### **IV. Community Items**

No community items were presented.

## **V. Future RAB Agenda Development**

### **A. Upcoming Meeting Topics**

Site-Wide Decision Document

### **B. Next RAB Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

## **VI. Public Comments**

Comment from M. Douglas, Community Member – I have been on the RAB for 4 or 5 years now, and this issue about what is happening next door at the AU president's house has come up again and again and does not seem as if there is a high level of satisfaction with what has happened so far. I am just thinking, before this continues, if people from West Virginia are motivated enough to come to the May meeting, then why can they not come back and do a walkthrough with USACE to satisfy our community? To spend an hour or two talking about whatever it is that they would like to say; otherwise it seems as if there is a shadow hanging over this.

D. Noble explained that USACE is certainly open to that.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Then why are you not more proactive about it?

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member – How did the workers know about the May meeting?

G. Durrin explained that the workers got a letter from Carrie Johnston, Spring Valley Community Outreach Program.

Comment from M. Douglas, Community Member – Oh, well then maybe they can get another letter from C. Johnston to arrange a meeting with D. Noble or B. Barber or both and set this to rest so if they have genuine concerns that have not been heard, they could be.

D. Noble explained that contacting the workers again is certainly on the list of things to do and USACE is going to do it.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – But then you will close down the project and have your final report that will say everything is fine at 4835 Glenbrook Road and that is the end of it and then it will never get done.

D. Noble explained that he did not see that being an issue. There are all kinds of ways that a decision can be reopened under CERCLA. If significant new information is provided and it checks out, things can be reconsidered.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – I do respect the fact that this is the AU president's house, but let us forget that for a minute, because a house is a house. How much money would it cost to do some probes of some sort and also be really vigorous about contacting them for a walkthrough to find out what they think might be buried there? I do not know what is buried there. They have never told me what is buried there. But I do know that they are certainly making an effort.

D. Noble explained that it is hard to estimate what anything would cost when one is not exactly sure what it is one is talking about. It is almost next to nothing to try to get in touch with the workers to ask if they would like to come and set a date to visit the site with USACE.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Why do you not do that?

D. Noble explained that USACE plans to contact the workers again.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Now or 5 years from now?

D. Noble explained the contact will be attempted in the near future, if B. Barber has not made the attempt already.

Comment from Lawrence Miller, Community Member – That is great if that is done to satisfy some community demand. I would also be interested to know if the owner of the house has the same level of concern and provides a ROE, and if in fact there were glass enclosed chemicals entombed under the house, what the analysis would be. How do you go about analyzing the potential harm if something has been there 100 years and might be there another 50 or 100 years? Is the cost benefit analysis such that USACE would do anything?

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member – Just to respond to that, it is also contaminating the groundwater, and that is what a homeowner brought up at the May RAB meeting. She lives directly across the street, downgrading from that house, so anything buried under there ends up in her groundwater and on down the rest of Spring Valley.

Comment from L. Miller, Community Member – I was not asking, but one can check groundwater. We have a big program to check groundwater. It may be related, but is a separately addressable issue.

D. Noble confirmed that the groundwater along Glenbrook Road has been checked thoroughly. What is known is that arsenic and perchlorate have been found in the groundwater in that area.

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – Also, you have a history with these workers going back to since 1993, because I happened to just come across a letter from their lawyer to USACE. I had no idea. A lot of this is shrouded in mystery and I think it is really good if you can get them to do a walkthrough and then go forth from that. There is a lot more that we do not know.

D. Noble explained that USACE is going to pursue the idea of asking the workers to come to the site

Comment from G. Durrin, Audience Member and producer, Durrin Productions, Inc. – That is great.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.