



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

**March 10, 2020  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

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

**Agenda**

- |                  |             |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>7:00 p.m.</b> | <b>I.</b>   | <b>Administrative Items</b><br>Co-Chair Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Introductions, Announcements</li></ul> Task Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ TAPP Contractor</li><li>▪ RAB Membership</li></ul> |
| <b>7:15 p.m.</b> | <b>II.</b>  | <b>USACE Program Updates</b><br>Groundwater Study<br>Site-Wide Remedial Action<br>Glenbrook Road   |
| <b>8:05 p.m.</b> | <b>III.</b> | <b>Community Items</b>   |
| <b>8:10 p.m.</b> | <b>IV.</b>  | <b>Open Discussion &amp; Future RAB Agenda Development</b><br><u>Upcoming Meeting Topics:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ (Suggestions?)</li></ul><br><u>*Next meeting:</u> May 12, 2020   |
| <b>8:20 p.m.</b> | <b>V.</b>   | <b>Public Comments</b>   |
| <b>8:30 p.m.</b> | <b>VI.</b>  | <b>Adjourn</b>   |

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



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

# SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting  
10 March 2020



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®





# AGENDA REVIEW

## Co-Chair Updates

- Introduction, Announcements

## Task Group Updates

- TAPP Contractor
- RAB Membership

## USACE Updates

- Groundwater Study
- Site-Wide Remedial Action
- Glenbrook Road

## Community Items

## Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development

## Public Comments





# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



## CO-CHAIR UPDATES

Introductions






# CO-CHAIR UPDATES

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[Home](#) [Spring Valley](#)

### Announcements

--- Next Restoration Advisory Board Meeting - January 14, 2019





The next RAB meeting is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, January 14 at 7 pm**. These meetings are open to the public. Currently, the RAB meets every other month for 60-90 minutes in the 'Undercroft' meeting room at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street NW, D.C.

*(Please note - The St. David's Episcopal Church staff have asked that we refrain from using the outside stairwells as a safety precaution due to water issues, poor lighting, and lack of stairs with grips; and use the bell tower entrance (which has internal stairs and an elevator). There will be signs clearly posted to direct RAB meeting attendees to the new entrance. We thank you in advance for following the request of our hosts, the St. David's Episcopal Church.)*

--- Final Site-Wide Decision Document Now Available:

The Final Site-Wide Decision Document is complete and is now available at the information Repository and for download here on our site. The Decision Document outlines the selected remedies to address both unacceptable risks posed by soil contamination and unacceptable explosive hazards posed by the possible presence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).

[Click here to visit the Site-Wide section of the Spring Valley page where the Final Site-Wide Decision Document can be downloaded](#)



[Site-Wide](#)

[The Corps'pondent](#)

### Spring Valley Overview

The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of approximately 660 acres in the northwest section of Washington, D.C. During the World War I-era, the site was known as the American University Experiment Station, and was used by the U.S. government for research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions. Today, the site encompasses approximately 1,600 private properties, including several embassies and foreign properties, as well as the American University and Wesley Seminary.

### Project Efforts

[Project Update](#)

[4825 Glenbrook Road](#)

[Site Wide](#)

[Groundwater](#)

[Community Participation](#)

[Partners](#)

[History](#)

### Project Documents

These are just a few of the project documents. More key documents can be found in the information Repository at the Tenley Friendship Branch Library.

≡ [Project Documents](#)

### Associated Organizations

[Agency for Toxic Substances and](#)

## Announcements

## Website Updates

- January and February Monthly Site-Wide Project Update
- Weekly 4825 Glenbrook Rd Project Updates with photos
- December Partners meeting minutes
- Next Partners meeting: *April 23<sup>rd</sup>*
- January RAB Meeting Minutes



# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

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## TASK GROUP UPDATES

New TAPP Contractor







# TASK GROUP UPDATES



## New RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) advisor

- Follow the January 14<sup>th</sup> RAB meeting, the RAB submitted electronic votes to secure Devamita Chattopadhyay, Ph.D. a local Environmental/Chemical Engineer, for the Spring Valley RAB TAPP position.
- The 8A contract to **ATI** has expired.
- USACE is working to redirect the offer to Dr. Chattopadhyay through another firm.





# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



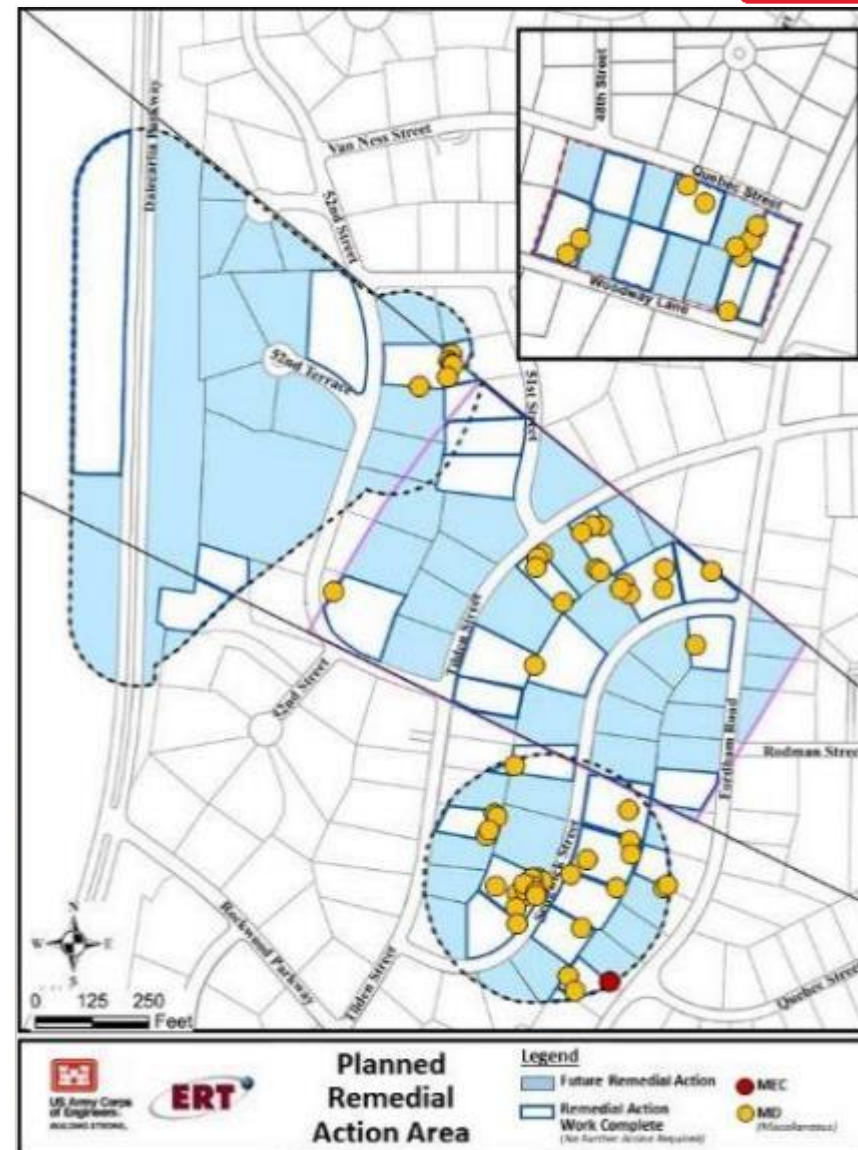
## SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION (RA)

92 Properties - USACE Updates



## Final Survey effort at 92 Residential Properties and 13 Federal/City Lots:

- Currently working on 89 residential properties at different stages of the remedial action process.
- 81 civil surveys and 81 arborist surveys have been completed.
- 80 properties have been visited by the geophysist team, who provide technical recommendations on plant removal.
- Vegetation has been removed from 71 private properties and 13 City/Fed lots.
- Geophysical surveys completed at 51 private properties and 7 City/Fed lots off Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Anomaly removal completed at 43 private properties and 4 City/Fed lots off Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Issued 2 Assurance Letters.







# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## Geophysical Surveys

9



*The geophysical survey team continued conducting dynamic and cued surveys through the winter.*



**Lanes are set up across all accessible areas of each property during the dynamic survey mode as a guide during data collection.**

*The team in Cued Survey mode*



**For cued surveys, the team collects data over each area where an anomaly was detected, to get more information about it.**





# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## Anomaly Removal Efforts Continue

*The team carefully excavates each target, checks each location with a metal detector to ensure the metal anomaly was removed, and fills the clear hole with soil.*



*Munition fragments are double bagged and tested for potential chemical residue (all clear to date)*







# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## *Tentative Schedule*



### **Spring 2020**

- Continue to finalize landscape removal plans and conduct plant removal at private properties.
- Continue geophysical surveys.
- Continue to obtain Rights-of-Entry from the next group of homeowners.
- Continue anomaly removal efforts.
- Complete soil removal at two locations in the southern American University campus exposure unit.

### **Summer 2020**

- Continue finalizing plant removal plans with subsequent groups in preparation for geophysical surveys.
- Continue geophysical surveys.
- Continue anomaly removal efforts.



# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



## SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION (RA)

Public Safety Building (PSB) - USACE Updates







# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

AU's Former Public Safety Building (PSB)

Post Slab Removal Efforts

13



***Excavator transferring soil onto screening table to be processed***



***UXO technicians processing soil at the soil sorting station***



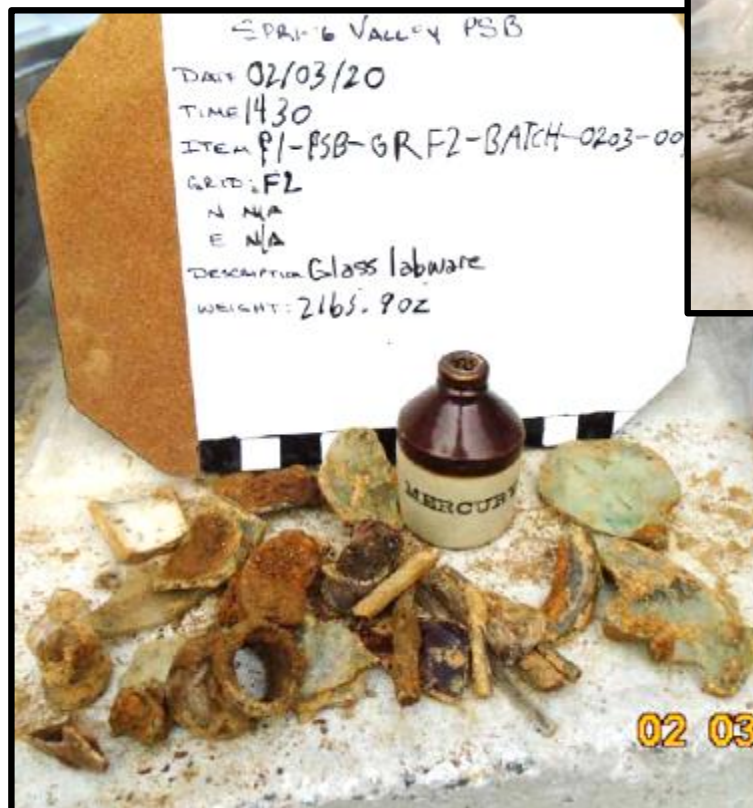




# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## AU's Former Public Safety Building (PSB)

### Recovered Glassware



Recovered glassware is secured and separated into batches to be sent for headspace analysis.





# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## AU's Former Public Safety Building (PSB)



### *Additional recovered glassware*







# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

AU's Former Public Safety Building

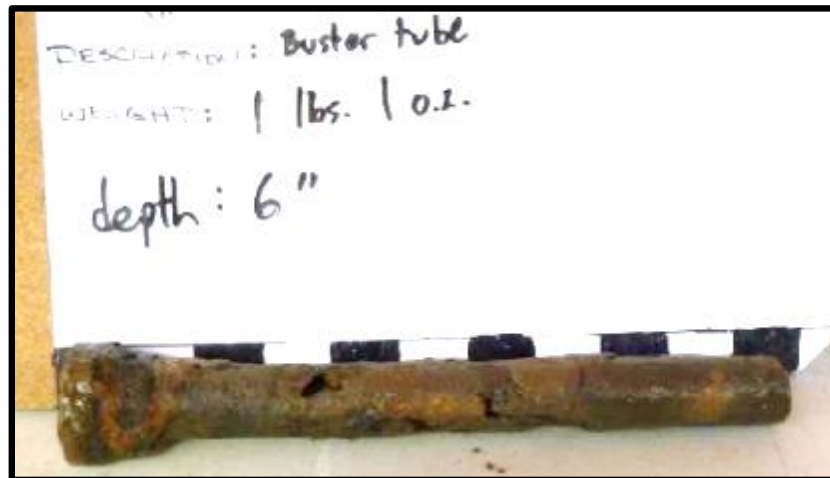
## Recovered Munitions Related Debris



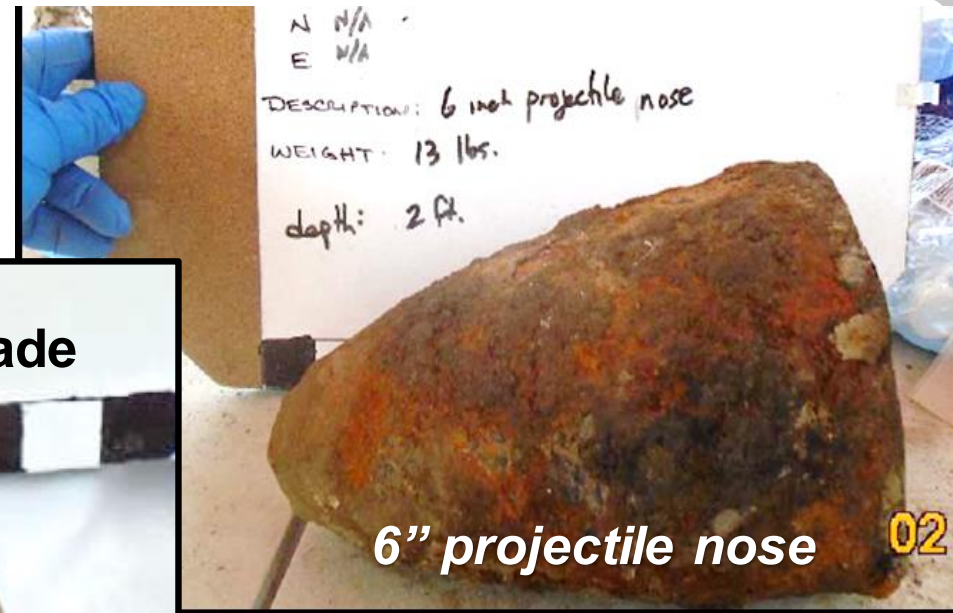
*Livens Mk 1 incendiary projectile*



Expended M2 hand grenade



Booster tube



*6" projectile nose*



*75-mm projectile*



# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

AU's Former Public Safety Building

Recovered Munitions Related Debris

17



**Bomb fin**



**Recovered items associated with bomb assembly**



**Fuse**







# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## AU's Former Public Safety Building

18



***4" stokes mortar nose***



***UXO technician with 4" stokes mortar nose.***

**The item is secured from the excavation site, double bagged, and sent for head space analysis.**





## SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

### AU's Former Public Safety Building

19



*On Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, crews completed filling this roll off with soil from the AU's former Public Safety Building.*

*Crews noticed a smell on Monday morning when they re-visited the roll off to collect soil samples. Per the team's odor sensitivity training work was paused while the soil sample was tested.*

*No chemical agent nor chemical agent breakdown products was detected. The soil will be properly disposed of according to its characterization.*





# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

**AU's Former Public Safety Building (PSB)**

**Post Slab Removal Efforts**

*On March 4<sup>th</sup>, while processing soil at the soil sorting station UXO technicians recovered a small sealed test tube with what appeared to be a solid material inside.*

*Per the team's low probability protocols, work was paused as the Army response team assessed the glassware. The material was determined to be TNT.*

*The item is stored securely for disposal according to safety protocols at the Federal Property.*



*UXO technicians processing soil at the soil sorting station*



*Recovered sealed test tube*





# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

AU's Former Public Safety Building

*Recovered cultural debris*

21



Recovered sealed  
Houbigant perfume  
bottle

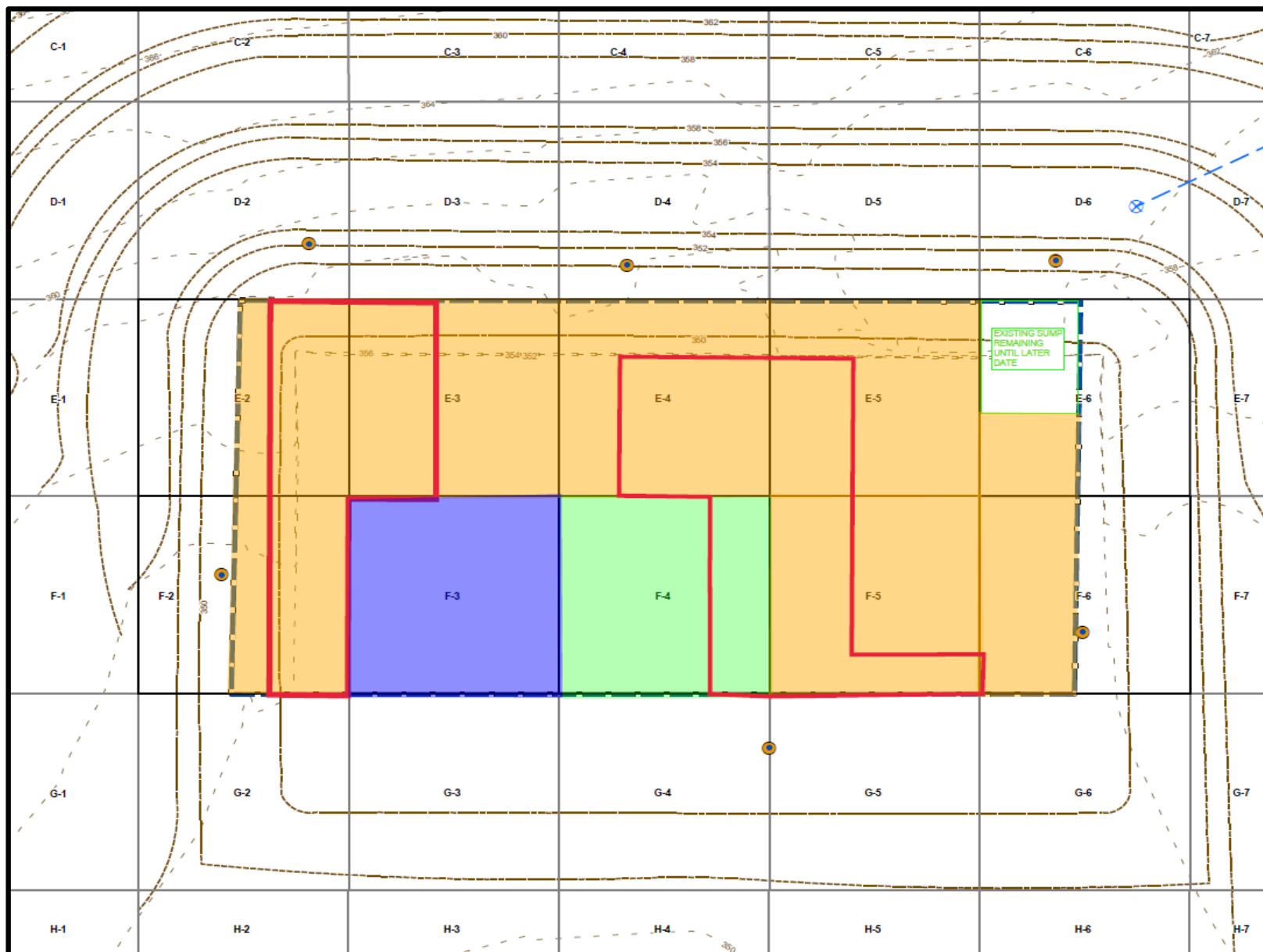


Early District of Columbia license plate



# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

## AU's Former Public Safety Building



### Legend

- Public Safety Building Foundation Boundary Grids (15 x 15 ft)
- Public Safety Building Foundation Grids
- Public Safety Building Excavation Area Grid
- Contour Elevation (2ft interval)
- Abandoned Storm Drain Pipe
- Abandoned Storm Drain Pipe Location
- Sump Locations
- Approximate location of "black" soil
- Area that has been excavated down to 1ft below ground surface.
- Area that has been excavated down to 2ft below ground surface.
- Area that has been excavated down to 3ft below ground surface.

03/06/2020  
APPROXIMATELY 8.0 CY  
EXCAVATED FROM SUB-SLAB  
AREA WITHIN GRID CELL F-3  
and F-4



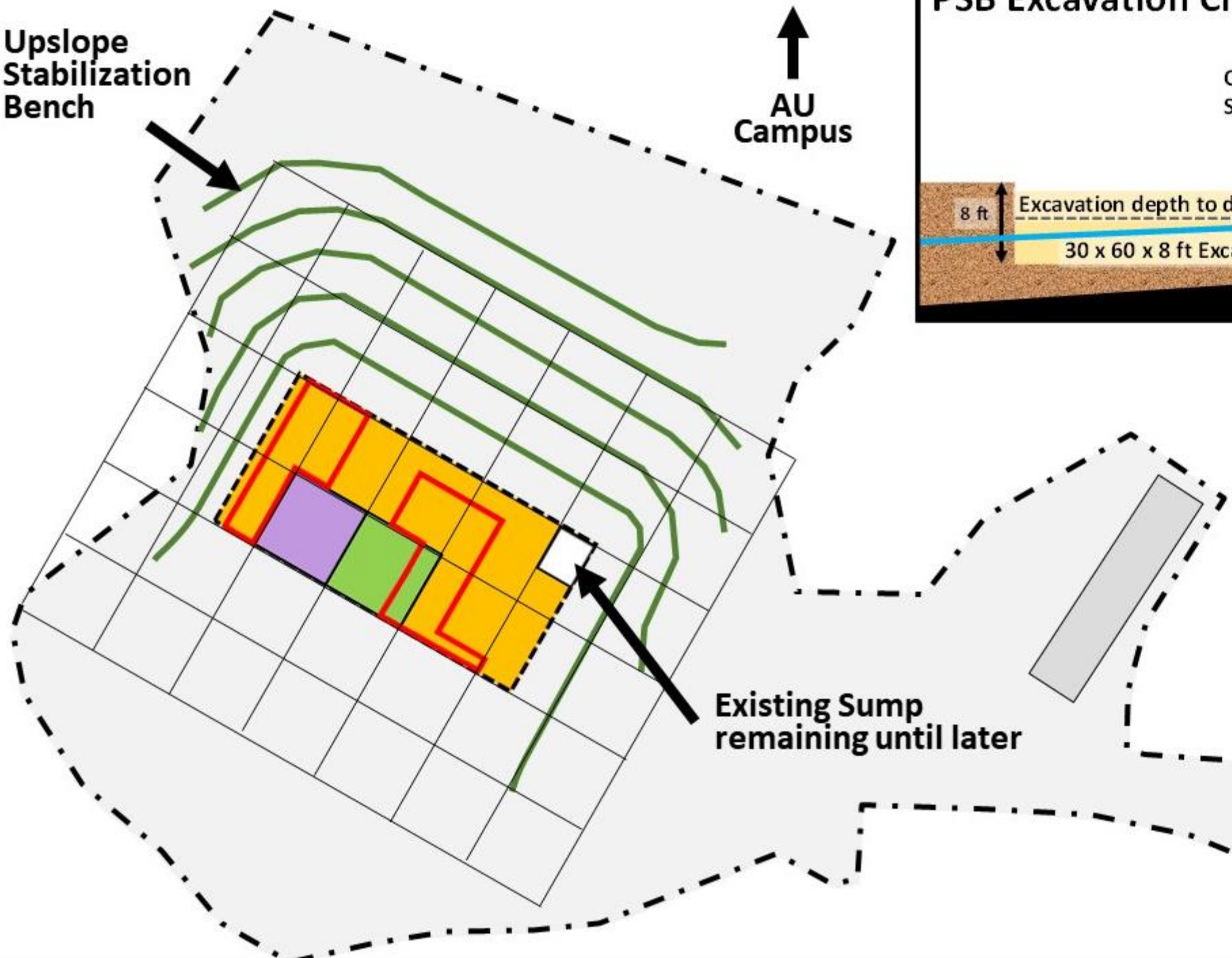
0 3 6 12  
Feet

Figure 1  
American University  
Public Safety Building Site Grids  
Spring Valley FUDS  
Spring Valley, Washington, D.C.



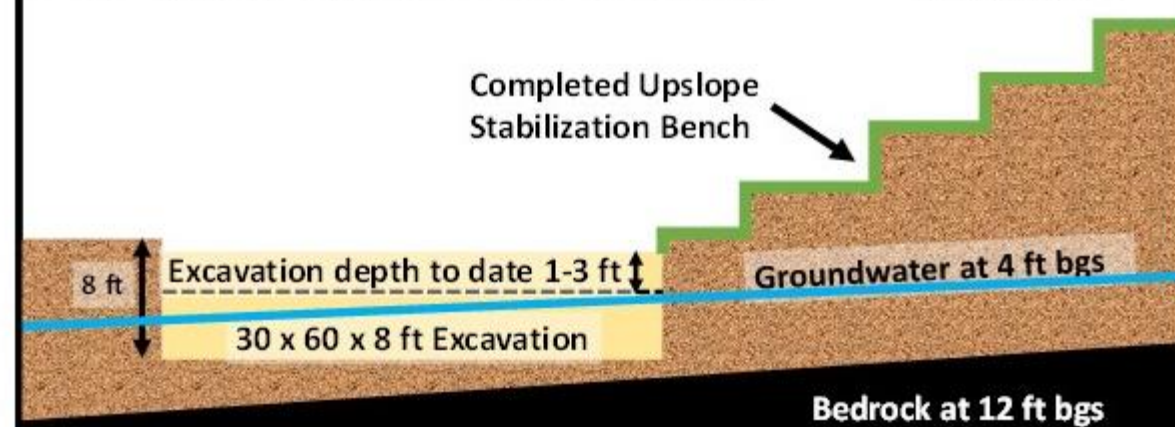
Upslope  
Stabilization  
Bench

↑  
AU  
Campus



## PSB Excavation Cross Section

AU Campus →



## Legend



Approx. location  
of "black" soil



Area excavated  
to 1' BGS



Area excavated  
to 2' BGS



Area excavated  
to 3' BGS





# SITE-WIDE REMEDIAL ACTION

AU's Former Public Safety Building

24



South facing view of the excavation grid and project site





# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

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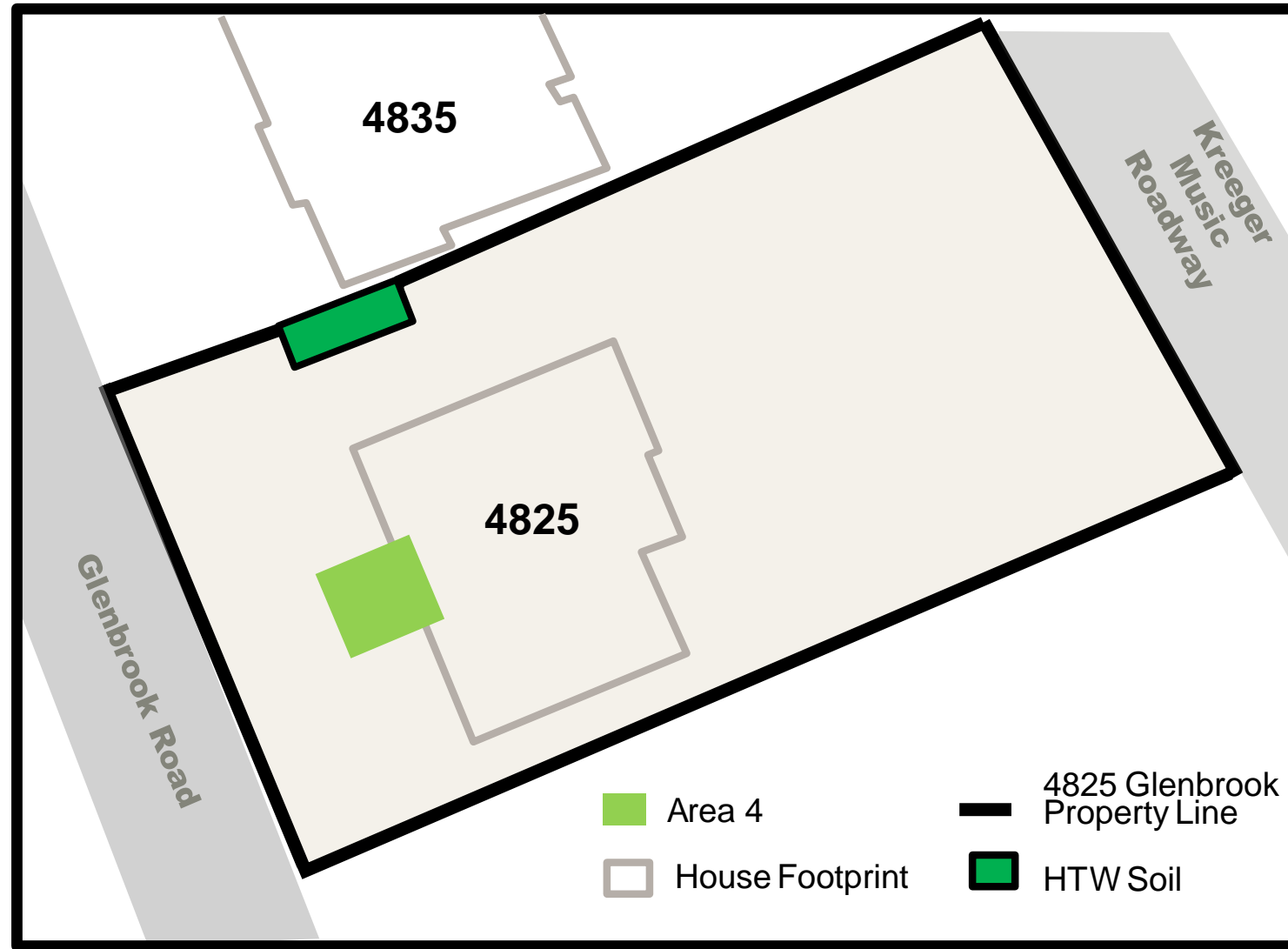
## GLENBROOK ROAD PROJECT AREA

USACE Updates





# GLENBROOK ROAD – HTW EFFORT UNDERWAY



Remaining HTW Contaminated Soil Removal Areas



# GLENBROOK ROAD – RECENT EFFORTS



The site team prepared the site step by step for intrusive operations. This included providing a stable operations area for the equipment and crew to safely excavate the 2 remaining small areas with contaminated soil.



# GLENBROOK ROAD – RECENT EFFORTS



On Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> the team began excavating the clean soil at Area 4, as scheduled. By Wednesday, they had reached the top of the remaining contaminated soil, and safely removed 30 drums of soil.



# GLENBROOK ROAD – RECENT EFFORTS

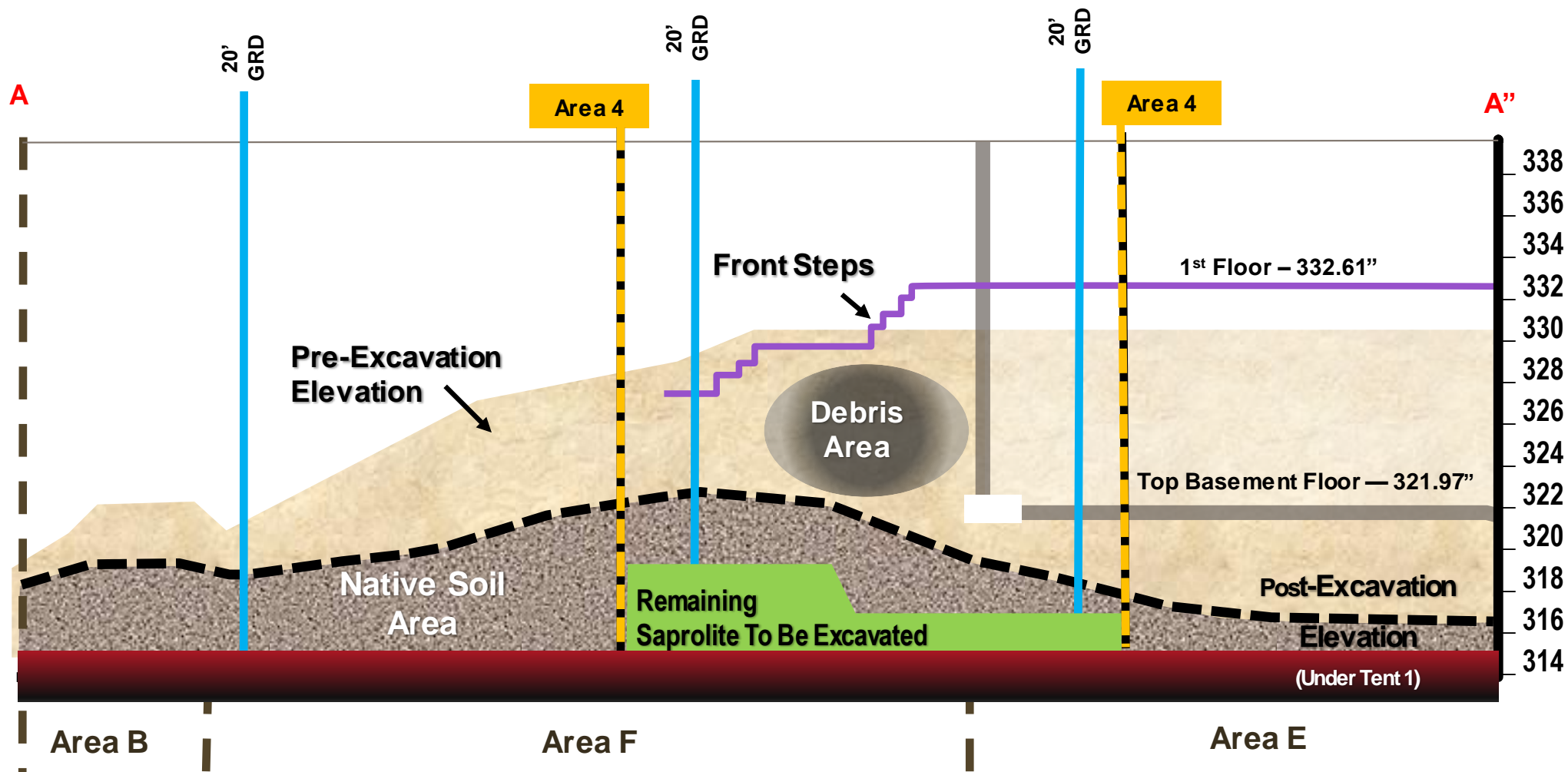


As the intrusive operations continued, the team realized that they were still removing soil and not hitting bedrock as quickly as expected.

By the end of the week, they had removed 150 soil drums from Area 4. The soil removal from Area 4 continues to be underway this week.



# GLENBROOK ROAD – UPCOMING HTW EFFORT



HTW contamination has been detected in both the soil and saprolite of Area 4.





# GLENBROOK ROAD

## *Tentative Schedule*



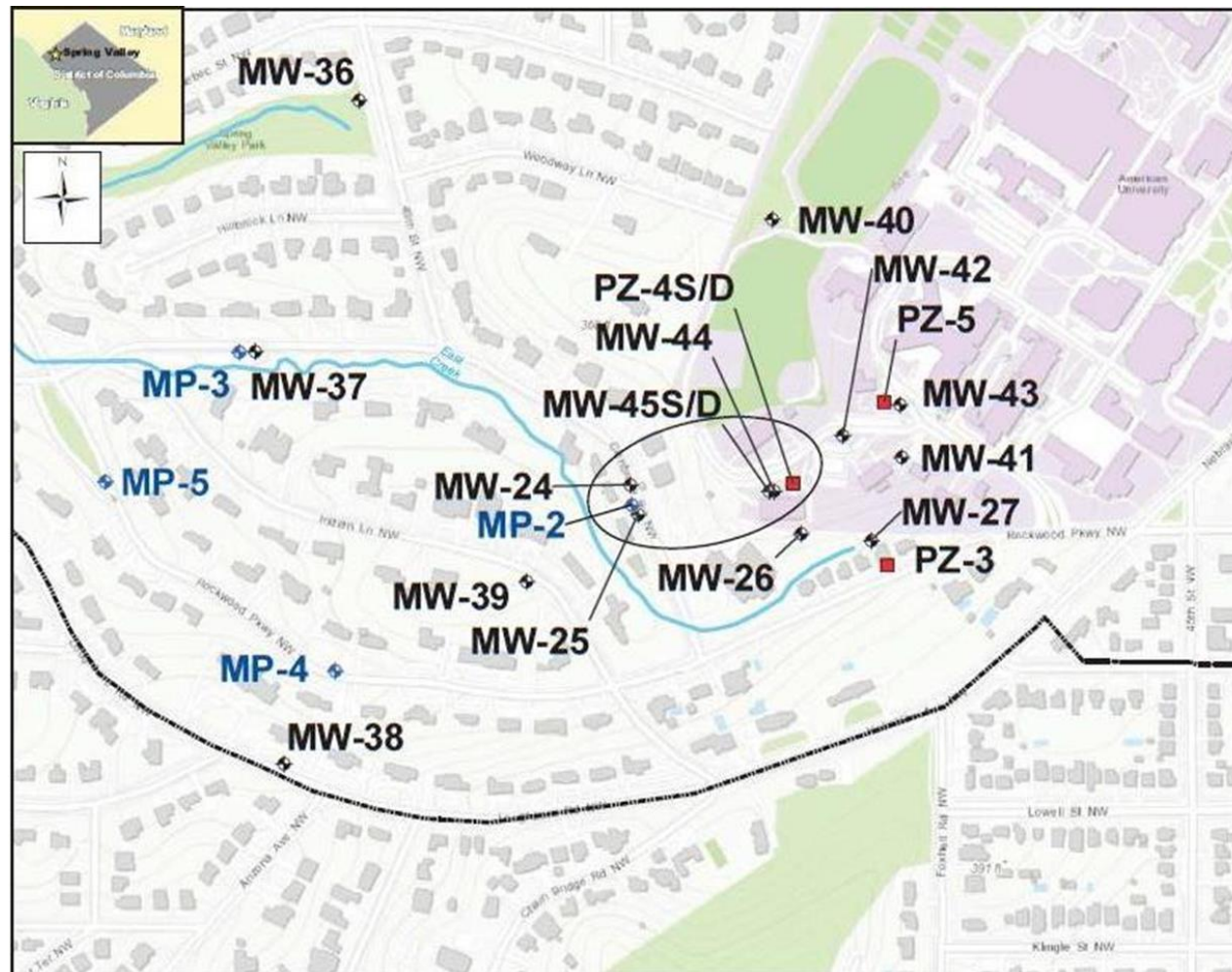
<b>Spring 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address remaining HTW at Area 4 and the grid along shared property line.</li><li>• Completion of any remaining intrusive activities, conducted per Partner consensus on the conclusion of the HTW effort, and the Soil Gas Sampling results.</li><li>• Ongoing site restoration for the Glenbrook project area.</li></ul>
<b>Summer 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anticipated project completion.</li></ul>

# SPRING VALLEY FUDS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



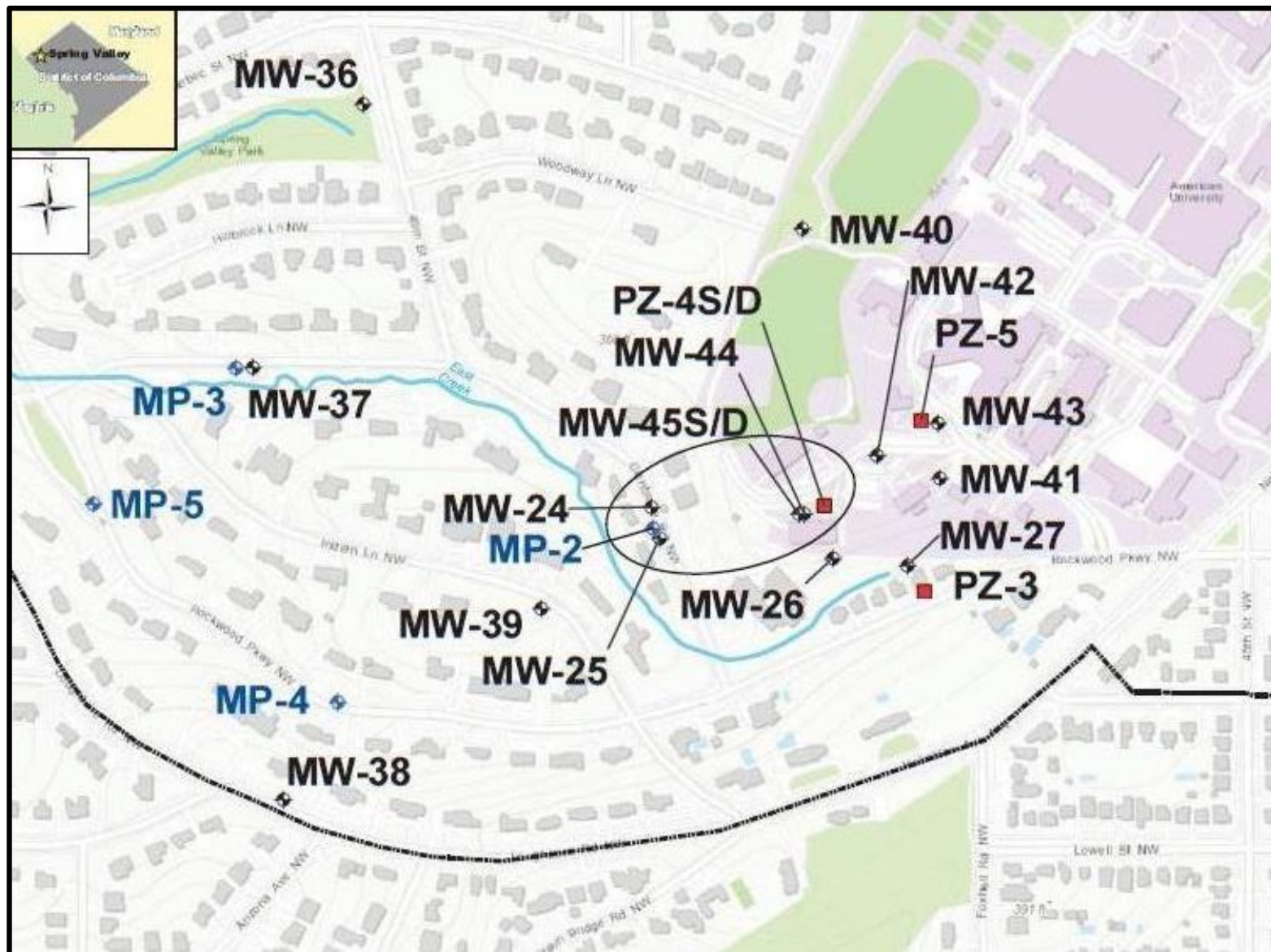
## GROUNDWATER STUDY

USACE Updates





# GROUNDWATER STUDY: EXPOSURE UNIT 2



## Key

 Area encompassing the EU2 Monitoring Wells

 Spring Valley FUDS Boundary

 Piezometer

 Monitoring Well

 Multiport Well

S/D = Monitoring well or piezometer with screened intervals in the same borehole.



# GROUNDWATER STUDY



The regulatory Partners (DOEE and EPA) agreed to conduct additional groundwater data collection in Spring 2020. The Army Corps and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) continue to prepare the groundwater sampling plan for the upcoming sampling event.

After the confirmation sampling is completed, the Army Corps and Partners will discuss the results and determine the path forward for the final groundwater approach.

## ***Next Steps:***

- Confirm that the arsenic concentrations are below established drinking the water standards.
- Continue to monitor perchlorate concentrations.
- The Perchlorate MCL is scheduled to be published in June 2020.



***Groundwater sampling well***





# SPRING VALLEY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



## *Community Items*





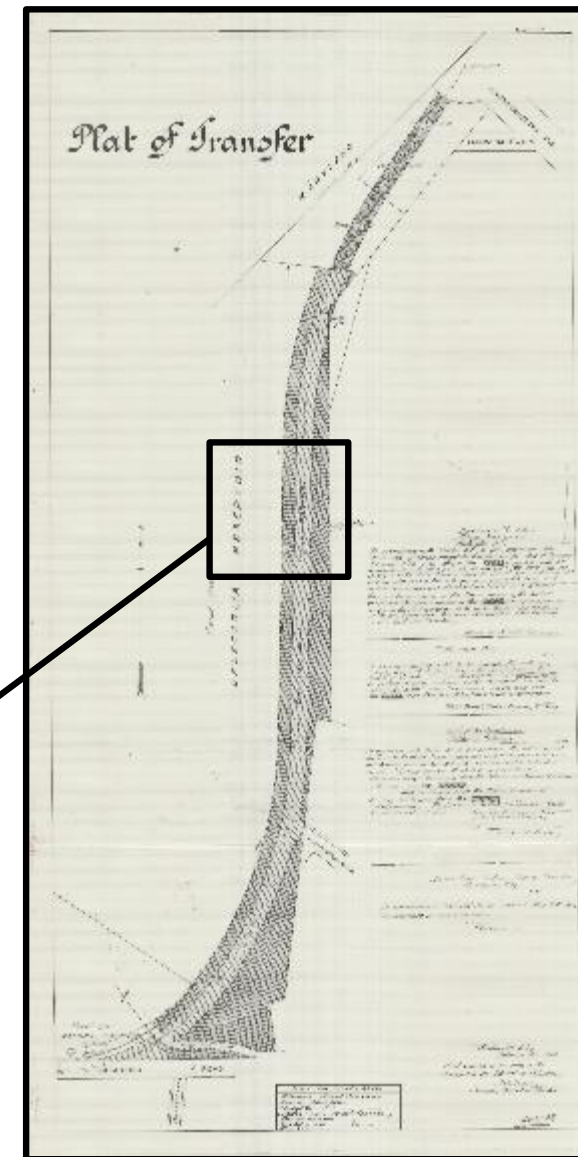
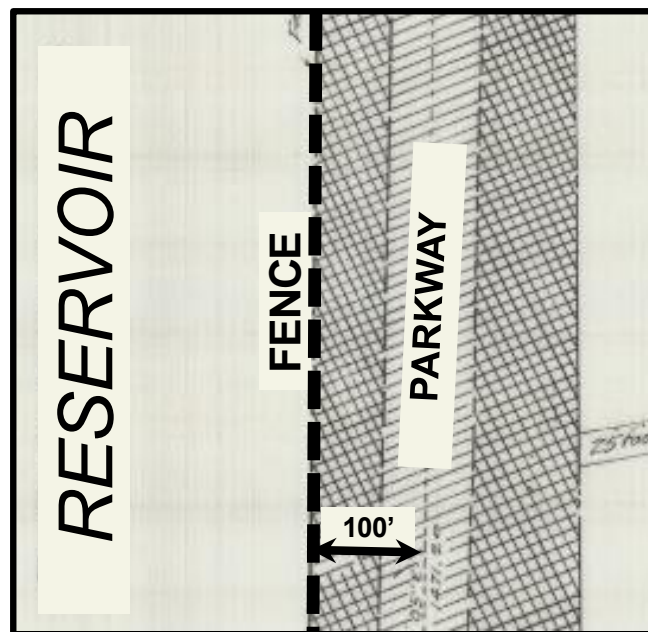
# HISTORIC TRANSFER OF AQUEDUCT PROPERTY

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**As per the last RAB, we're sharing the historic 1942 map that shows transfer of property along Dalecarlia Parkway from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Washington Aqueduct)**

- Various hatchings indicate historic property transfers, including from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to National Park Service and “Commissioners of the District of Columbia”
- USACE is not directly involved in any current bike lane proposals, nor is USACE-owned property in consideration for such construction
- Should any bike lanes or pedestrian paths be proposed adjacent to Aqueduct property, we would coordinate to ensure no negative impact to operations or security



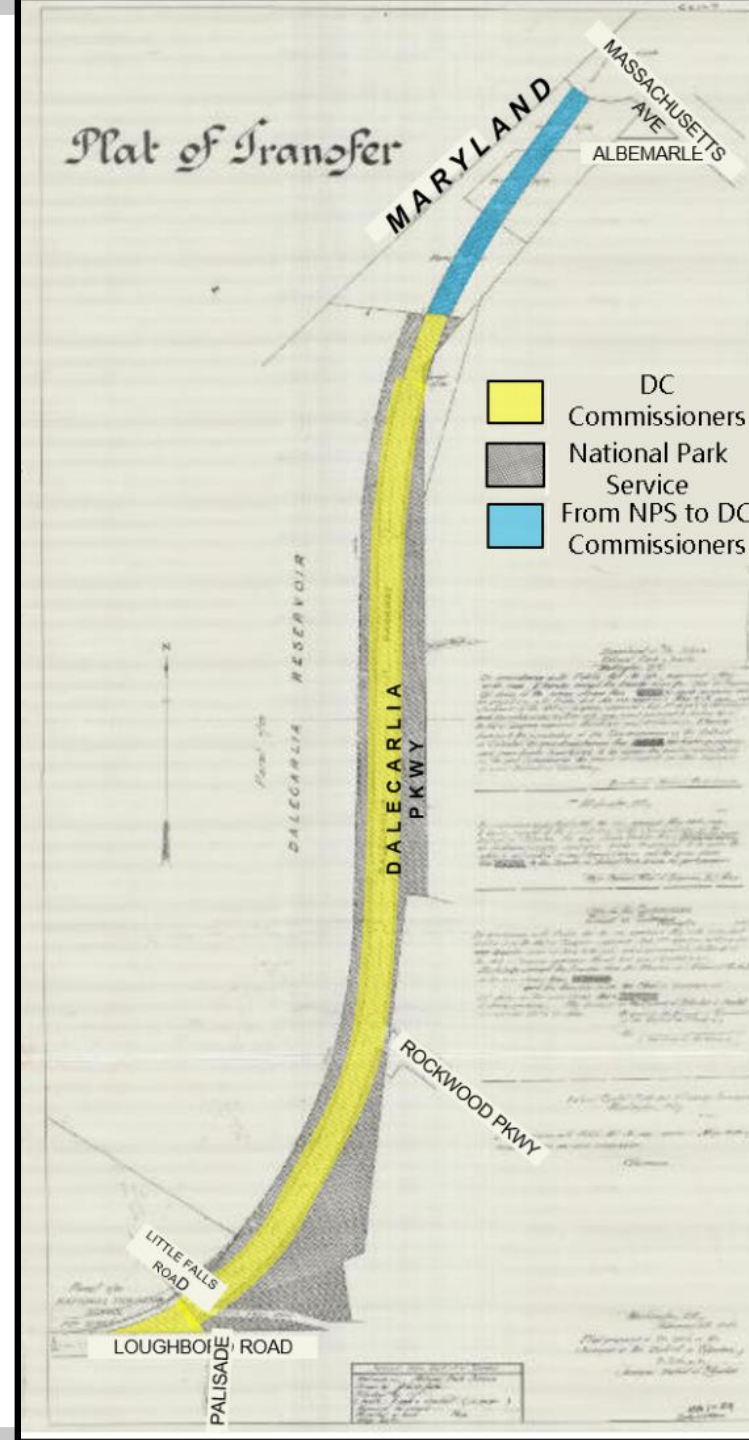
**\*\*\* NOTE, this is not intended to serve as a current map of property ownership**





# DALECARLIA PARKWAY

This map shows an overlay of current uses of the Dalecarlia Parkway over the historic map.





# SPRING VALLEY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



## Open Discussion:

## Reminders:

- The next RAB meeting will be  
**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## Upcoming Agenda Items:

- *Suggestions?*
- Upcoming Spring 2020 Groundwater sampling results





**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the March 2020 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
Brian Barone	Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment
Marguerite Clarkson	At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School
Mary Douglas	Community Member
Ivanna Goldsberry	USACE
Steve Hirsh	Agency Representative - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Malcolm Pritzker	Community Member
<b>RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING</b>	
Jennifer Baine	Community Member
Paul Bermingham	Community Member
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Mary Kathryn Covert Steel	Community Member
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
William Krebs	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
Dan Nichols	At Large Representative - American University
Tom Smith	Community Member
John Wheeler	Community Member
<b>ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL</b>	
Whitney Gross	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program

Holly Hostetler	ERT, Inc.
ZaKerra Lance	ERT - Community Outreach Team
Carlos Lazo	USACE, Government Affairs Liaison
<b>HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING</b>	
I. Final Agenda for the March 10, 2020 RAB Meeting II. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation III. February Site-Wide Monthly Project Update IV. Overview of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Cleanup Process at the Spring Valley Site V. Plat of Transfer for the Dalecarlia Parkway area between Massachusetts Avenue and Loughboro Road	

## **AGENDA**

**Starting Time:** The March 2020 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting began at 7:06 PM.

### **I. Administrative Items**

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

Dan Noble, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Spring Valley Project Manager, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

#### **1. Introductions**

D. Noble introduced Jonathan Harms, new RAB Community Member, and ZaKerra Lance, ERT Community Outreach team.

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

D. Noble reviewed the website updates which included the January and February Site-Wide Monthly Project Update, weekly 4825 Glenbrook Road updates and photos, December Partner meeting minutes, and January RAB meeting minutes.

The next Partner meeting will be on April 23.

Comment from Allen Hengst, Audience Member - I just wanted to ask a question. I think I understand what happened this time. You put the draft minutes on the web and then sometime in the last 24 hours you changed those to the final minutes.

Whitney Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Program asked A. Hengst to repeat his comment.

Question from Allen Hengst, Audience Member - The draft minutes have been on the web, the draft RAB minutes from January have been on the website for a long time, but within the last 24 hours they changed to final minutes.

Whitney Gross, Spring Valley Community Outreach Program explained that edits for the January RAB minutes had been sent to Chris Gardner, USACE, Corporate Communications Office.



Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - But we never got draft minutes. If you know what I mean? Normally, you would have sent the RAB members, the public participants, a copy of the draft minutes and then given us 2 weeks, but that did not happen this time.

W. Gross asked A. Hengst to clarify if he meant for the last RAB minutes.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - For January.

W. Gross explained that the January RAB minutes have been sent out to the RAB members.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Not to me.

W. Gross confirmed that she would double-check that the RAB minutes were sent out.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - But I did read them on the website, weeks ago, which was unusual to see the draft minutes on the website.

W. Gross confirmed that posting draft minutes on the website is unusual and would check into the posting. She asked if A. Hengst would not mind if she followed up with him.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - No, please do. I like having them sent to me and being given the 2 weeks to make corrections.

D. Noble and W. Gross confirmed that the Outreach Team will ensure that A. Hengst is on the distribution list.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Not that I would have made any corrections. You did miss a couple lines, but that is alright. It was at the very beginning of the meeting and maybe it just did not get picked up. So, we will let it stand.

D. Noble reiterated that the posting of the meeting minutes will be reviewed for tonight's minutes.

## **B. Task Group Updates**

### **RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Consultant**

Following the January 14 RAB meeting, the RAB indicated through electronic vote that Devamita Chattopadhyay, Ph.D. is the preferred candidate for selection as TAPP Consultant to the Spring Valley RAB. Dr. Chattopadhyay is a local Environmental/Chemical Engineer. The 8A contract to ATI, Inc. expired on March 1. ATI, Inc. was the firm through which USACE Baltimore intended to make an offer to Dr. Chattopadhyay. USACE Baltimore is working to redirect the offer to Dr. Chattopadhyay through another firm that still has years of 8A eligibility.

A request for a waiver to spend two years' worth of funds for the TAPP Consultant was submitted within the last two weeks to USACE Baltimore Headquarters (HQ). HQ usually responds to waiver requests very quickly. The waiver must then be approved by staff at the Pentagon. The waiver is expected to be completed soon, and a contracting package is prepared to offer the other firm as soon as authorization is obtained.

Question from Gerry Barton, Audience Member - This person, what does she do in DC?

D. Noble explained that Dr. Chattopadhyay performs environmental consulting work and works with different firms on a technical expert basis. USACE Baltimore believes Dr. Chattopadhyay is well-qualified.

Question from J. Barton, Audience Member - It is better than, what was it, Wyoming or something?

D. Noble confirmed this.

## **II. USACE Program Updates**

### **A. Site-Wide Remedial Action (RA)**

Ivanna Goldsberry, USACE Baltimore reviewed the Site-Wide Remedial Design (RD)/Remedial Action (RA).

#### **1. The final survey effort continues at the 92 residential properties and 13 Federal/City lots:**

- Currently working on 89 residential properties at different stages of the remedial action process.
- Eighty-one (81) civil surveys and 81 arborist surveys have been completed.
- Eighty (80) properties have been visited by the geophysical team to provide technical recommendations on plant removal.
- Vegetation has been removed from 71 private properties and all 13 Federal/City lots. More vegetation removal may be performed on the Federal/City lots in the spring as plants grow back.
- Geophysical surveys completed at 51 private properties and 7 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Anomaly removal completed at 43 private properties and 4 Federal/City lots along Dalecarlia Parkway.
- Issued 2 Assurance Letters. Expect to issue at 4 more Assurance Letters in the next month.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So, excuse me for a minute, does that mean that this is the same map that was shown in January?

I. Goldsberry confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Can you tell me if you did any anomaly removals in Area of Interest 13? You do not have to talk about individual properties. That is that area in the upper right-hand corner.

I. Goldsberry explained that she did not know the specific property numbers but could talk about those properties at the next meeting.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Yeah, my question was, did you do any anomaly removals at all in Area of Interest 13? That area up in the upper right-hand corner. The block.

D. Noble and I. Goldsberry explained that they did not know the property numbers in that area, so could not confirm if anomaly removals were conducted in that area yet.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So, you do not just say, 'this is Area of Interest 13 and we are going to do some here'?

I. Goldsberry explained that the project is not conducted by property numbers. Anomaly removals have been conducted on Sedgwick Street and Tilden Street.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - That is Woodway and Quebec, and it is a block of properties. It is where there is a possible disposal area. It is also where there is a property that was not geophysied [sic] 6 years ago when they all were because the property owner refused, and I know because I bring it up every meeting. I am interested in whether that property is going to be investigated this time around, or whether they are going to let him slide again.



I. Goldsberry explained that she cannot talk for homeowners or about individual property specifics.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I know you do not have to talk specifics. But if you have not done anything in Area of Interest 13, that block of properties in the upper-right, then you have not done this property. If you have done one up there, there is a chance that you might have done it; but I will have to wait until May to see that?

I. Goldsberry confirmed that the anomaly removal map will be updated at the next RAB meeting and reiterated that she cannot talk about individual property specifics.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - It is the only area in the FUDS [Ed. Formerly Used Defense Site] that has a possible disposal area. It is the only one with a possible burial pit. It is different from all the other areas. It is called Area of Interest 13.

Comment from Greg Beumel, Community Co-Chair - She is going to look at it and tell us specifically next time.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - In May.

I. Goldsberry confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - She is going to tell us in May what they did in January and February?

I. Goldsberry confirmed this.

Question from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - If there is something big, will you send out an email and tell us earlier?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Did he say we were going to get an email before May?

D. Noble, and I. Goldsberry confirmed that an email will be sent out if something significant is found in that area.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Good. Thank you.

## **2. Geophysical Surveys and Anomaly Removal**

- The geophysical team continued conducting geophysical surveys through the winter.
- Lanes are set up as a guide across the all accessible areas of each property during the dynamic mode data collection.
- During cued survey mode, the team collects additional data at each location where an anomaly was detected.
- The excavation team was mobilized February 24.
- The team carefully excavates each target, checks each location with a metal detector to ensure the metal anomaly was removed, and backfills the clear hole with soil.
- Soil removed during excavation is placed on tarps to reduce disturbance to the property.
- Munition fragments are double-bagged and headspace-analyzed for mustard (HD) and Lewisite (L). To date, all fragments tested clear of HD and L.

## **3. Tentative Schedule**

- Spring 2020

- Continue to finalize landscape removal plans and conduct plant removal at private properties.
- Continue geophysical surveys.
- Continue to obtain Right-of-Entries from the next group of homeowners.
- Continue anomaly removal efforts.
- Complete soil removal at 2 locations in the southern American University (AU) campus exposure unit.
- Summer 2020
  - Continue finalizing plant removal plans with subsequent groups in preparation for geophysical surveys.
  - Continue geophysical surveys.
  - Continue anomaly removal efforts.

Question from Mary Douglas, Community Member - What kind of anomalies are they finding?

I. Goldsberry explained that found anomalies include nails, cultural debris, and munitions debris (MD), such as pieces of metal associated with munitions.

### **B. Former Public Safety Building (PSB)**

D. Noble provided a brief update on the former Public Safety Building (PSB).

D. Noble will invite project engineer Kimberly Berg, USACE Baltimore to provide the update on the former PSB.

As a reminder, the objective of the PSB project is to excavate the soil underneath the footprint of the former PSB, an area of approximately 30x60 feet (ft.). Past investigative and removal efforts have been conducted around the former building. At that time, it was determined that the MD likely continued underneath the building. The Site-wide Decision Document (DD) included a directive that, if AU were to demolish the building, USACE Baltimore would remove the foundation and slab and conduct excavations underneath the slab to depths required to ensure that all American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related debris has been removed from AU campus.

### **1. Recent Activities**

- Now that the slab has been removed, an excavator is positioned next to the footprint of the former PSB. The excavator removes a scoop of soil, swivels around, and places the scoop of soil on a sorting table, a wood frame with a screen as the tabletop. The unexploded ordnance (UXO) team sorts through the scoop of soil with hand tools. The soil is raked through and falls through the screen, any debris is left behind on top of the screen and sorted.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Last meeting you showed us some bottles that came from the upslope?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Is it safe to assume that all this came from underneath the foundation and not? [Ed. sentence trailed off]

D. Noble confirmed that all items to be presented at tonight's meeting came from under the foundation of the former PSB.



Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Under, ok.

- The team expected to find the debris in patchy areas but there has been a consistent layer of debris underneath the former PSB. A diagram will be shown later in the presentation to illustrate where the debris was found.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - How deep?

D. Noble explained that the team begins to encounter debris at approximately 1 foot excavation depth.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So, they actually built the building on top of the waste?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - And you are going to pursue that through your PRP, right? You are going to get reimbursed for this extra cost?

D. Noble explained that he cannot not speak to the legal aspects of the PSB project. The potentially responsible party (PRP) report includes the PSB.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - And I believe it was an alumni association that built the building? That is what Carrie said. If Carrie was here, she [Ed. sentence trailed off]

D. Noble could not recall whether the building was built for an alumni association or a fraternity.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Right, the fraternity alumni.

D. Noble confirmed this.

## **2. Recovered Glassware**

- The small ceramic jug marked Mercury is similar to Mercury (Hg) jugs found during previous excavations at the PSB.
- The rest of the recovered laboratory items are broken pieces of glassware. Occasionally, an intact bottle is found, but none of these bottles were stoppered or sealed.

Question from G. Barton, Audience Member - What is the top left, what are those? In the middle, the top? [Ed. items in the middle picture on slide #15]

D. Noble explained that the items in the photo on slide #15 could be broken-off tops of bottles. There are some laboratory ground-glass stoppers pictured as well.

Comment from G. Barton, Audience Member - Ok, the stuff on the left of that looks like, you know, just sort of long, like little logs or sticks.

D. Noble explained that the items are different types of glass tubing.

Comment from J. Barton, Audience Member - Oh, ok, alright.

Question from Lawrence Miller, Community Member - Is that a label on the bottom-left bottle?

Steve Hirsh, Agency Representative - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III and D. Noble explained that the bottle shown in the picture on the bottom left of slide #15 is a ceramic jug marked Mercury.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - Is that what it says there, Mercury?

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that Mercury was sold in small ceramic jugs in 1918.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - And all of that goes back to WWI?

D. Noble confirmed that all of the recovered glassware is AUES-related debris.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - There is a stream that comes out there, right? A stream that goes behind the houses on Rockwood, underneath or on top of the ground at the Korean Ambassador's, then underneath Glenbrook Road, and behind those houses on Glenbrook Road. And that is where you have your well, one of your wells with the arsenic and perchlorate? It did have over the limits, depends what the limit of perchlorate is.

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Could it be that these bottles and jugs were the ones that polluted that groundwater? I mean, they once had chemicals in, right?

D. Noble explained that it is possible, if the release point was around the PSB, it is debatable, would that contamination then extend in front of Kreeger Hall.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Well, that might be a different one.

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that perchlorate is detected in stream water, but it is unknown if the perchlorate is coming down the stream or if the perchlorate is where groundwater wells up as the groundwater crosses underneath Glenbrook Road and comes up into the stream.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - But the stream that comes out from underneath the building, you do not know the source of that stream, yet. Then maybe you will discover it, or no?

D. Noble explained that it is difficult to tell if that is the point where the stream starts or if the spring begins further up and comes down through the area. At the last RAB meeting, USACE discussed the discovery of a large storm drain that ran under the front of the former PSB and then seemed to end. The team is not sure where the storm drain begins on campus.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Do you know if that drop-off—you know, the AU campus is above, and then there is this big drop-off—was that drop-off natural, which would indicate there is a spring there, or was it an excavation that dug that hole?

D. Noble explained that the land elevation behind the former PSB is closer to being natural, as the elevation would have been in 1918. The road above represents a lot of fill.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Probably a spring, would be my theory, then.

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from Brian Barone, Agency Representative - Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) - Sorry, just because you mentioned the small mercury bottle, wasn't there some Mercury detections in soil a couple of weeks ago?

D. Noble explained that since the dark soil encountered at the PSB excavations is associated with AUES debris, samples of the dark soil were submitted for analysis. Elevated levels of arsenic (As), mercury (Hg), and lead (Pb) were observed in the soil samples. The Pb levels are considered elevated for the natural background levels for Spring Valley but remain below the residential standard. The levels for As and Hg are over the residential standards. The team monitors the Hg level closely, because Hg can be a vapor hazard. Real-time Hg monitoring is in use at the work zone.



Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Do you recall that they encountered mercury at the east campus when they were building across from the church? Where the old parking lot used to be? I do not know where it was but it halted the project for months and they never figured out where it came from.

D. Noble confirmed that he believed that Hg was encountered in the groundwater and explained there was an issue with Hg in the east campus sampling on an AU project conducted outside the FUDS. The current excavation at the PSB is encountering jars labeled 'Mercury,' so it is not surprising to observe elevated Hg levels during excavations.

### **3. Recovered Munitions Debris (MD)**

- MD recovered to date includes:
  - Opened Livens Mk1 incendiary projectile.
  - Expended M2 hand grenade - UXO technicians found and identified 2 pieces that would have formed an M2 hand grenade.
  - Projectile nose cones.
  - A 75mm projectile - the 75mm projectile is the most common munition found at Spring Valley.
  - Booster tube - a long booster tube, likely for a Livens projectile, would have been inserted into a port in the top of the Livens and then screwed into place. The booster would have a delayed explosive charge in it that would have allowed the Livens to open up on detonation and spread the contents around the target area.
  - Bomb fins - bomb fins have been found previously at the PSB.
  - Nose cone-type fuze.
  - Bomb assembly items.
  - A 4-inch Stokes mortar nose - the AUES utilized both the 3-inch and 4-inch Stokes mortar. Encountering a 4-inch Stokes mortar item is unusual in Spring Valley.
- All MD items are double-bagged, photographed, recorded, and headspace analyzed.
- The MD is disposed as scrap metal after testing negative for chemical agent.

### **4. March 2 Incident**

On Friday, February 28, the crews conducted normal excavation. A roll-off was filled with soil from the day's excavation and covered late Friday. The covered roll-off was left onsite over the weekend.

When the crews returned on Monday, March 2, a team of two workers were sent to collect characterization samples from the roll-off to determine proper disposal of the soil. When the team pulled the cover back, the soil emitted an odor that dissipated right away. The odor was described by the workers as a 'garlicy' odor, a common description of the odor HD might emit. The roll-off was covered back up immediately.

A series of tests were conducted underneath the tarp to determine the presence of off-gassing chemicals from the soil. The tests were all negative. The team took a sample of the soil to the onsite laboratory and performed a hot-box test. The hot-box raised the temperature of the soil to produce potential off-gassing. That test was negative as well.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - How was the soil taken and where was the soil taken from that you actually analyzed, that you did the hot-box with?

D. Noble explained that the workers collected the soil sample in either Level B or C personal

protective equipment (PPE).

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - I mean where physically, and did they just reach into the container?

D. Noble confirmed that the workers reached into the roll-off to collect the sample. The team would normally collect a composite sample, but perhaps in this situation the team may have collected a grab sample to minimize the time that the soil was uncovered. D. Noble will confirm with the team which type of sample was collected.

The sample was sent to the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (CCDC Chemical Biological Center) for low-level extraction, with particular focus on HD and HD breakdown products. The sample tested negative.

The two workers were sent to George Washington University Hospital to be evaluated. The workers did not report any symptoms and were released from the hospital after evaluation. The workers are now back at work.

The area where the soil was excavated is known, and the workers are on alert. Per the team's odor sensitivity training, the team acted appropriately when the odor was detected.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - And so they did not smell anything on Friday when they were doing it?

D. Noble confirmed that no one noticed any odor on Friday, February 28, while the soil was excavated and sorted. The temperature on Friday was cooler than the temperatures over the weekend. Through the weekend the soil was above ground in warmer temperatures, it is possible that the conditions created some type of off-gassing.

## **5. Recovered Trinitrotoluene (TNT) Test Tube**

On March 4, while processing soil at the soil sorting station, UXO technicians recovered a small sealed test tube with what appeared to be a reddish, brownish, solid material inside. Per the team's low probability protocols, work was paused and CARA (Army response agency) was notified. The Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team conducted an onsite assessment of the test tube and were able to determine with a high degree of certainty that the test tube contained TNT.

The TNT test tube is considered a Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) item. If an item contains an amount of a material greater than 10% explosive, the item is considered an explosive of concern and detonation is possible. The test tube with TNT fits in that category. TNT is a secondary explosive; TNT needs an explosion to explode. The EOD personnel did not consider TNT a high hazard item since there was no initiation chain present.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - Does that not become quite unstable over time, though, TNT?

D. Noble explained that TNT is remarkably stable over time. TNT is still used today as a high explosive in military munitions. Nitroglycerin and guncotton are very unstable.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So, it is not a MEC?

D. Noble explained that the TNT test tube is a MEC.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Ok, it is a MEC, but it is not going to explode. That means you are still in low probability?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - You would have to find, then, one that might explode in order to be [Ed. sentence trailed off]?

D. Noble explained that even if the team found one MEC item that might explode, the operation might still be conducted in low probability. The determination of low or high probability operations would depend on the probability of finding more MEC.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - Would two kick you out of low probability? What is the number?

D. Noble explained that there is no clear way to determine low or high probability based on a number of MEC items. The determination of probability is based on the assessment by the site team and explosive safety personnel.

Comment from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - You found a lot of test tubes.

D. Noble confirmed this.

## **6. Recovered Cultural Debris**

Occasionally, items are found that are not associated with AUES activities:

- Houbigant perfume bottle, likely from the 1920s.
- Early District of Columbia automobile license plate

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - Does not DC have a department of archaeology? Do they recover some of these interesting objects?

D. Noble confirmed that USACE Baltimore consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the District of Columbia in the past. SHPO directed USACE Baltimore to photograph any recovered artifacts but was not interested in acquiring any items from the Spring Valley site.

Comment from J. Barton, Audience Member - We have an amateur archaeologist who lives on Sherier Street, just below the reservoir, who actually has put some of his stuff into the Palisades Rec Center as a display. So, he would be interested in that stuff.

D. Noble explained that the USACE lawyers would require the signing of a liability release for any items. Most of the items will be disposed.

## **7. Areas to be Excavated**

The map on Slide #23 of the presentation shows the 30x60 ft. footprint of the former PSB. The areas marked in gold indicate areas that have been excavated down to 3 feet. The two remaining grids marked in green and blue indicate excavations to 1 foot (green) and 2 feet (blue).

The two remaining grids will be excavated down to 3 feet, where the soil appears to be clean, native soil. The team is considering scraping the soil out at the 3-foot. depth and collecting confirmation samples to confirm the soil is clean. USACE Baltimore will consult with EPA Region III and DOEE to determine if the 3 foot excavation is sufficient to consider the project completed. The contractor is prepared to excavate to 8 feet, but this may not be necessary if clean soil is achieved at 3 feet.

The area outlined in green in the upper right corner of the former PSB footprint indicates a large, previously unknown, concrete sump structure underneath the slab. The concrete sump will be



broken up and removed, requiring excavation deeper than 3 feet. The excavation will be widened to break up the concrete sump.

Question from J. Barton, Audience Member - Sump as in like a sump pump well, that kind of thing?

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that a photo of the concrete sump structure will be shown later in the presentation.

Comment from J. Barton, Audience Member - OK.

The areas outlined in heavy red on Slides #23 and #24 of the presentation are areas where AUES debris has been found. By the end of the excavation, these areas outlined in heavy red will likely converge and become one shape outlined in red to illustrate where debris was found. Underneath the former PSB, approximately 50% of the area where the debris has been found has been between the 1 to 2 foot layer.

During excavations, the team noted that soil that contains AUES debris is often darker in color. Soil below 3 feet resembles the native soil surrounding the site.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - You said you have excavated outside of the building foundations previously, so, when they get to the edge of this, I mean it has already been dug out; south, I guess?

D. Noble explained that the previous excavations followed the debris. When the debris field ended halfway down the building, the team stopped excavating from outside the building. A small area of debris appears to extend outside the footprint at the front of the building. The team will go back and excavate, following the debris up the hill. The debris is expected to dissipate after a few feet.

Question from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - And on the front side of it, where the excavator is, that was pretty much all dug out then?

D. Noble confirmed that the excavation extended up to the foundation and across the back of the former PSB to depths of approximately 8 to 9 feet back in 2009 to 2011. The team is confident there is no debris left in back of the building.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - When you went down to 8 to 9 feet back then, did you find anything below the 3-foot level?

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that the team is considering limiting the excavation to 3 ft. and installing a series of test pits across the site to ensure there is no layer of debris deeper than 3 ft.

### **C. Glenbrook Road**

D. Noble provided a brief update on 4825 Glenbrook Road and 4835 Glenbrook Road.

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

- The site team prepared the site for intrusive operations to safely excavate the two small remaining areas with contaminated soil.
- The map on Slide #27 of the presentation shows the two remaining areas to be excavated; the green square indicates Area 4 and the blue rectangle indicates the Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) -contaminated soil along the shared property line.
- Area 4 is the area where there was contamination on broken-up saprolite on top of bedrock.

The team will scrape the top of the bedrock to remove the contamination.

- On Monday, March 2, the team began excavating the clean soil at Area 4, put in place when the team backed out of the last excavation. By Wednesday, March 4 the team reached the top of the remaining contaminated soil marked by a layer of plastic from the last excavation. The team safely removed 30 drums of soil on the first day and removes an average of 60 drums of soil per day.
- As the intrusive operations continued, the team realized that the soil went deeper than the approximately 1 to 2-foot depth expected. By the end of the week, the team had removed 150 drums of soil from Area 4. Soil removal will continue until the excavator reaches refusal at bedrock, where the excavator is not capable of reaching more soil.

## 2. Tentative Schedule

- Spring 2020
  - Address remaining HTW-contaminated soil at Area 4 and the grid along the shared property line.
  - Completion of any remaining intrusive activities; conducted per Partner consensus on the conclusion of the HTW effort and the Soil Gas Sampling results.
  - Ongoing site restoration for the Glenbrook Road project area.
- Summer 2020
  - Anticipated project completion.
  - Some restoration activities may require completion during cooler temperatures in the fall.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - So, do you think this Area 4 comes as close as anything to what they termed 'the hole of hell' or 'the pit of hell'? Have you found it ever?

D. Noble asked M. Douglas to clarify if she meant Sgt. Maurer's pit.

Comment from M. Douglas, Community Member - Yeah.

D. Noble explained that he believes Sgt. Maurer's pit was within the footprint of the former house at 4825 Glenbrook Road, and the builder excavated into Sgt. Maurer's pit. The remaining contamination at the front of the former house represents debris that was pulled forward, moved out of the way, and left behind. D. Noble believes that the debris was not found where the soldiers buried the debris in Sgt. Maurer's pit, but where the builder left the debris in the front yard in the early 1990s.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - So, when it was pulled forward, the bulk of it, what happened to most of it? Just some of it was pulled forward?

D. Noble explained that there is information that some of the debris was removed from the site by the builder. The destination of the debris is unknown.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - I see. And that is still part of an investigation, right?

D. Noble explained that USACE Baltimore is not investigating the final location of the removed debris from the 1990s. Both USACE Baltimore and DOEE investigated the removed debris without success in determining the final location. It is known that the debris was sent to the Ft. Totten area when the nearby Ft. Totten metro station was being built. Soil was needed at the new Metro station to level out an equipment yard for the metro contractor. Some soil was sent to that area and the contractor began to spread the contaminated soil out. The area is Park Service land,

lent to the Metro Authority for the construction project. The Park Service employee overseeing the land ordered that the contaminated soil be taken away. Eventually, the contaminated soil was taken away and the final destination of the soil is unknown. It is also unknown if all the contaminated soil that left Glenbrook Road was sent to the Ft. Totten area.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Just wanted to fill in a little before and after on the soil story. Before it went to Ft. Totten, they sent it to Lorton, and they refused it outright. Then it got to Ft. Totten and was removed. The best theory I have heard is it ended up at St. Anselm's, which is on South Dakota Avenue; there is a lot of landscaping there, it is just down the road from Ft. Totten. I do not know if anybody has investigated it, but that is the most believable story that I have heard.

#### **D. Groundwater Feasibility Study / Dispute Resolution**

D. Noble provided a review of the Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) and a brief update on the Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

Todd Beckwith, USACE Baltimore continues to work with the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) to prepare for the spring round of groundwater sampling. The proposed groundwater sampling plan will be submitted to the Partners for review and approval before sampling begins. Once the groundwater sampling is completed, USACE Baltimore will discuss the results with the Partners to determine next steps in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process for groundwater. The goal of the spring sampling is to confirm that arsenic concentrations in groundwater are remaining below established drinking water standards. USACE Baltimore is monitoring the EPA decision-making for perchlorate levels and measuring the perchlorate concentrations in wells that had elevated detections of perchlorate in the past. The spring sampling may confirm the recent drop in perchlorate levels observed in recent sampling.

### **III. Community Items**

#### **A. EPA Perchlorate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**

S. Hirsh provided a brief background and update on the EPA Perchlorate MCL.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are standards that are set by the EPA for drinking water quality. An MCL is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is the gold standard that every water supplier in the country must meet. The National Contingency Plan (NCP), which guides Superfund, states that if there is an MCL for a contaminant, Superfund clean-ups must meet that MCL.

Every 5 years, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to search for chemicals that are not regulated in drinking water, termed the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). During one of these campaigns, EPA reviewed perchlorate in drinking water. Levels of perchlorate were sampled from every large drinking water provider of 10,000 people served or more and a sample of small water systems. EPA collected all the data and conducted an evaluation to determine the occurrence of perchlorate, the number of people drinking water with perchlorate, and if the perchlorate is present at levels that may cause health problems. This process is being conducted now for forever chemicals, such as per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). To S. Hirsh's knowledge, PFAS is not an issue in the District but is an issue in other places.



More than a decade ago, EPA determined that perchlorate should be regulated, since there were enough people affected and perchlorate was detected in high enough concentrations. EPA now has a requirement to develop an MCL for perchlorate; the first time a new MCL has been developed since the Safe Drinking Water Act was passed.

EPA has missed regulatory deadlines to develop an MCL for perchlorate. As a result of a lawsuit, a judge imposed a schedule on EPA to develop an MCL for perchlorate. Up until now, the Spring Valley groundwater efforts were determined by the clean-up number of 15 parts per billion (ppb), the Superfund level used since an MCL was not available. In June 2019, EPA made a proposal for the perchlorate MCL at 56ppb, a significantly higher number. This proposal created controversy; the California number is typically lower than the rest of the country, but much lower than 56ppb, and the Massachusetts number is much lower. EPA opened a comment period to the general public for the proposal of 56ppb for the perchlorate MCL. At the same time, EPA also requested the public comment on options the Agency may consider including perchlorate MCLs of 18ppb, 90ppb, or no MCL at all. EPA collected many comments and is evaluating those comments. The court-mandated schedule requires EPA to publish the final MCL for perchlorate by June 19, 2020. The expectation is that the final MCL will be 1 of the 4 options; 56 ppb, 18 ppb, 90 ppb, or none.

S. Hirsh consulted with other staff at EPA and found no update. Determining a new MCL is a very formal process, including the final agency determination, Federal Register publication, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review, and economic analysis. A new MCL imposes a cost and requirement on all regulated drinking water facilities. EPA must determine if a new MCL is reasonable, appropriate, and necessary.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - As far as the impact, I know that perchlorate is in the water of over 100,000,000 people's drinking water, but PFAS, that is not as wide-spread.

S. Hirsh explained that additional PFAS compounds will be evaluated in the next UCMR. The level will likely be in parts per trillion (ppt), the lowest MCL for any chemical in drinking water.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member - What are the conservative California and Massachusetts numbers like?

S. Hirsh explained that he believed the California and Massachusetts clean-up levels for perchlorate are at 2ppb.

Comment and question from A. Hengst, Audience Member - California has a level of 2, but then they also say 1 as a recommendation. Massachusetts, I think, is 5. It is, basically, people that are downstream from, what is perchlorate? It is used in munitions, but it is used in a lot of other things.

S. Hirsh explained that perchlorate is used in propellants.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Rockets.

Comment from B. Barone, Agency Representative - DOEE - Flares, fireworks, munitions.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Like, the Colorado River is contaminated with perchlorate pretty close to its source. So, you know that water ends up in Las Vegas, in California, in Arizona; it is quite widespread with a river like that.

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - So, the real significance of all this is balancing cost of treatment and monitoring, which is reflected in water bills versus

protection of public health.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Money.

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - Well, with respect to the clean-up at Spring Valley, the significance is right now there are two wells on AU that are close to each other that have perchlorate in the 20 ppb range.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - 32, at Kreeger.

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - 32, below 50. So, if the MCL comes back at 56 it is likely, I would think, that there will not be a requirement for them to remediate or continue to monitor until the number comes below the MCL, because it would already be there.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - If I had to bet, I would say it is going to stay at 15, because there is going to be a lawsuit on June 19 that is going to freeze it at its current level for until the end of that lawsuit.

S. Hirsh explained that 15 ppb is a health advisory, not an MCL. The Washington Aqueduct does not have to sample for perchlorate now; if there were an MCL, the Washington Aqueduct would have to sample for perchlorate. The Washington Aqueduct has sampled the water in the past for perchlorate and for PFAS, and the drinking water complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - Steve, did you look at all the public comments?

S. Hirsh explained that he did not look at the public comments, of which he believed there are thousands.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - Did you ever see a summary?

S. Hirsh explained that he had not seen a summary yet.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - What I am curious about is, is this scientists arguing about appropriate levels to protect human health or is this something else?

S. Hirsh explained he could not speak to that question.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - I can the answer that. This is about the difference between the Trump EPA and the Obama EPA. The Obama EPA are the ones that started this process, ok? And it was going to be lowered. But then when, what is the guy's name, Trump, came in and put in Pruitt and everybody else, suddenly the culture of the organization changed.

Comment from M. Douglas, Community Member - I do know that.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - So, you just do not know. If there is a lawsuit and it continues into the next administration, we could go back to the Obama rule, or the Obama culture.

Question from M. Douglas, Community Member - Well, I just was curious about it. I know this agency has stripped down the science commissions and the advisory commissions.

S. Hirsh explained that drinking water is well below the 15 ppb level. In the past there were concerns about perchlorate in the groundwater near Sibley Memorial Hospital getting into the Dalecarlia Reservoir. At that time the water was sampled either daily or weekly. The water complies with the standards and is not sampled for perchlorate now.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - The other aspect is the Army does not believe that you need to clean up the groundwater to drinking water standards. The EPA believes that, or at least, they used to.

S. Hirsh confirmed that EPA and the DOEE believe that the groundwater should be cleaned up to drinking water standards.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - They still believe it, ok. The Army does not. They say it does not matter what the level is, it is groundwater. We are not drinking groundwater; we are not going to clean it up.

G. Beumel explained that issue is for the future, once EPA establishes the MCL for perchlorate.

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - Right. So, the other thing I was asked to do, and actually would have been more useful, I think, to the newer members, was to go through the history of Superfund. I can run through it or we can save it for another month and have Joe do it when everybody is here.

Comment from A. Hengst, Audience Member - Let Joe do it.

G. Beumel requested that EPA make a presentation on Superfund at the next RAB meeting.

Question from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - Are you going to be here in two months?

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - I will not be here. I am retiring from EPA after 41 years.

Comment from M. Douglas, Community Member - Congratulations.

Comment from S. Hirsh, Agency Representative - EPA Region III - May 1 is my last.

Comment from G. Beumel, Community Co-Chair - That is one thing I will do right now. I thought that Steve's retirement was before the next meeting. I think that those of us who are left here, we really owe a lot to our EPA Representative and want to thank him very much for the work he has done in Spring Valley.

[Ed. applause for S. Hirsh]

## **B. Historic Transfer of Property**

D. Noble provided a brief update on the historic transfer of the property along Dalecarlia Parkway.

The Washington Aqueduct provided the historic 1942 Plat of Transfer. One side of the Plat of Transfer handout is a copy of the original document. The other side of the handout includes additional descriptions and colors added by Community Outreach Team member Lattie Smart to aid understanding of the document:

- All the land described in the Plat of Transfer was transferred out of the USACE's possession and into the possession of either the Park Service or the DC Commissioners.
- The yellow strip indicates land that transferred from USACE to the DC Commissioners.
- The grey hash mark area on either side of the yellow strip indicates land transferred from USACE to the National Park Service (NPS). At the same time, NPS gave the DC Commissioners the area in blue, presumed for the completion of Dalecarlia Parkway up to the circle at Massachusetts Avenue.
- The blue and yellow areas represent Dalecarlia Parkway, curb to curb. The grey area at the bottom is the area that USACE transferred to NPS, under DC ownership now.



- A fence surrounding the aqueduct and reservoir is clearly labeled on the Plat of Transfer. All land in front of the fence was transferred out of USACE ownership. There is no land under the control of USACE in front of the fence along Dalecarlia Parkway.

Question from G. Barton, Audience Member - So it does not extend east, it stops at the fence?

D. Noble confirmed that USACE-owned land stops at the fence.

Question from Marguerite Clarkson, At Large Representative - Horace Mann Elementary School  
- So, that area is DC or Park now?

D. Noble explained that he believed all the land along Dalecarlia Parkway belongs to DC now, both the road and the right-of-way on either side of the road. NPS does not have any ownership interest along Dalecarlia Parkway. NPS may still have ownership interest in some of the land in Maryland, but not within DC.

USACE would not be involved in any decisions concerning the land along Dalecarlia Parkway. USACE would only have concerns if there was some structure planned along the fence-side of the road or close to the aqueduct security fence. This concern would be from a neighbor point of view, not an ownership point of view.

### **C. Coronavirus Response**

Depending on conditions and the coronavirus response, the next RAB meeting may be conducted as a virtual meeting. The decision whether to hold a virtual meeting will be made closer to the date of the next meeting.

## **IV. Open Discussion and Future RAB Agenda Development**

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

- RAB TAPP Consultant
- Groundwater FS Study/Policy Issues between USACE, EPA, and DOEE
- Site-Wide RA
- Glenbrook Road
- Superfund overview (by EPA)

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

### **C. Open Discussion**

## **V. Public Comments**

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.