



SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROJECT

RAB Meeting

**May 5, 2015
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
Glenbrook Road
Site-Wide Remedial Investigation Document Conclusions & Next Steps
- 8:00 p.m. III. Community Items**
- 8:10 p.m. IV. Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development**
Upcoming Meeting Topics:
 ▪ 4825 Glenbrook Road Health Consultation Update (ATSDR)
*Next meeting: July 14, 2015
- 8:20 p.m. V. Public Comments**
- 8:30 p.m. VI. Adjourn**

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

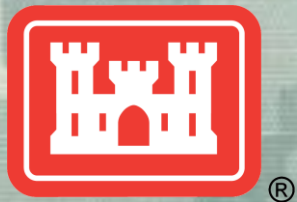
Spring Valley

Formerly Used Defense Site

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

May 5, 2015

“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.”



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Agenda Review



- ❖ **Co-Chair Updates**

- Introductions, Announcements

- ❖ **USACE Updates**

- Groundwater Study
- Glenbrook Road
- Site-Wide Remedial Investigation Document Conclusions & Next Steps

- ❖ **Community Items**

- ❖ **Open Discussion & Future RAB Agenda Development**

- ❖ **Public Comments**



Co-Chair Updates



Introductions



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Co-Chair Updates

Announcements

➤ Website Updates:

- Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report
- March & April Monthly Site-Wide Project Updates
- Weekly 4825 Glenbrook Rd Project Updates with photos
- February Partnering meeting minutes
- March RAB meeting minutes
- Spring Valley Timeline
(now includes the 1986 Report)



Co-Chair Updates

Before Digging

Please call the D.C. Department of Health at 202-535-1755 (if permits are required).

If permits are not required, please call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 800-434-0988.

We just want to know what and where you are digging in case we are planning any geophysical or soil sampling work in that area.

The Corps'pondent

From the July 2002 *Corps'pondent*

In 2002, the Army Corps advised the community to give notice to the D.C. Department of Health or the Army Corps before they dug on their property.

This is no longer believed necessary.



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Task Group Updates



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Groundwater Update

Groundwater

Groundwater Investigation Efforts

- Groundwater sampling is now being conducted annually at select wells near American University and Sibley Hospital. The FY15 annual sampling event was conducted April 23 – 29, 2015.
- The new multiport well on Rockwood Parkway, MP-5, will be sampled for the second time in June 2015. During the partial day sampling event, Rockwood Parkway will only be open to local traffic.

Detour signs will direct commuters to Indian Lane and Glenbrook Road.



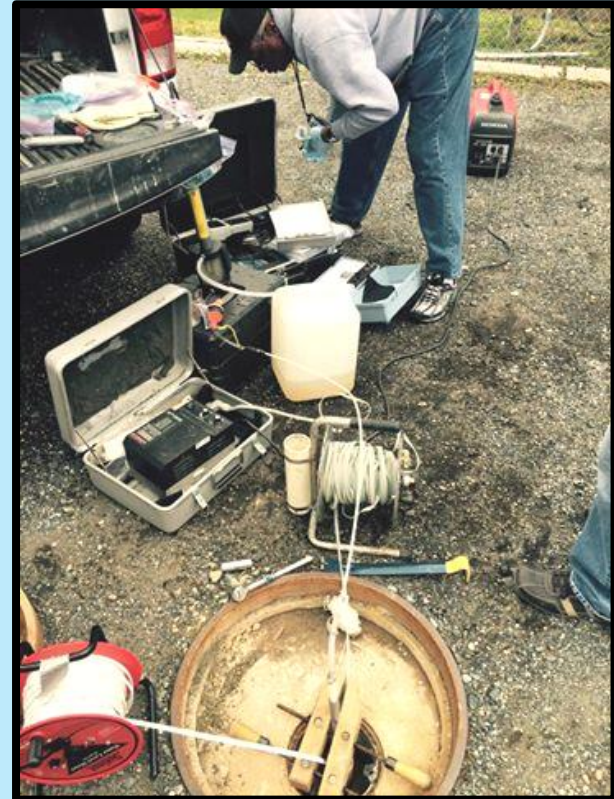
Sampling wells on Sibley Hospital property in April



Groundwater

Groundwater Investigation Efforts

- The Draft Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report is being internally reviewed by the Army.
- Once this internal review is completed, the Draft Final Groundwater RI Report will be provided to the Partners for regulatory review.



Sampling a Sibley Hospital area
monitoring well



4825 Glenbrook Road



4825 Glenbrook Road

High Probability



The crews continued with the high probability excavation work in the back yard area, behind the retaining wall. The crews are carefully demolishing sections of the retaining wall, then excavating and examining the soil and rubble.



As we excavate, we are installing lagging to support the soil walls near the shared property line. Then, the soil and rubble are loaded into roll offs, covered and moved off-site.



4825 Glenbrook Road

High Probability



The crews began excavating the soil and concrete in the former back porch area, as they progress down to grade. They have not encountered debris or visual signs of contamination in this area.

Crews are placing all of the soil and concrete from this area into drums because of the past positive results of mustard and lewisite contaminated soil found under and around the back porch during the previous investigation. They will continue to excavate this area for the next few weeks.

4825 Glenbrook Road

High Probability



On April 22, the crews safely recovered an unfuzed, unfired, open cavity 75mm munitions debris item. It was 'non-detect' for chemical agent.



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4825 Glenbrook Road

High Probability



Additionally, some American University Experiment Station-related broken glassware was recovered since the last RAB meeting.

All items were packaged and transported to Federal Property.



4825 Glenbrook Road

Summary of Findings Recovered Under Tent 2

For the high probability excavation operation under the second tent, as of last week :

- **Roll-offs and Drums:** 65 roll-offs of soil and 9 roll-offs of rubble have been removed.
- **Soil Removed:** ~520 yds³ out of the ~935 yds³ projected for Area D.
- **25.5 lbs. of glass:** Cleared headspace analysis.
- **No intact glass containers, three intact 75mm munitions debris (MD) items, one open cavity 75mm MD, and two 4.7" projectiles material deemed as safe (empty).**

-
- **No intact containers found since March 3, 2015.**
 - **There have been no readings for chemical agent on the MINICAMS (near real time continuous air monitoring system) at the pre-filter (inlet to the Chemical Agent Filtration System, or CAFS) under the second tent.**



4825 Glenbrook Road

Schedule Update

✓ **December 2012 through May 2013**

Site Preparation/ Initial Low Probability Work

- Test pits in backyard and re-locating utilities
- Install soldier piles to support embankments

✓ **May 2013 through September 2013**

ECS Set Up, High Probability training, and Pre-Operational Exercises

→ **September 2013 through Winter 2016/2017**
High Probability Excavation

Winter 2017 through Spring 2017

Final Low Probability Excavation

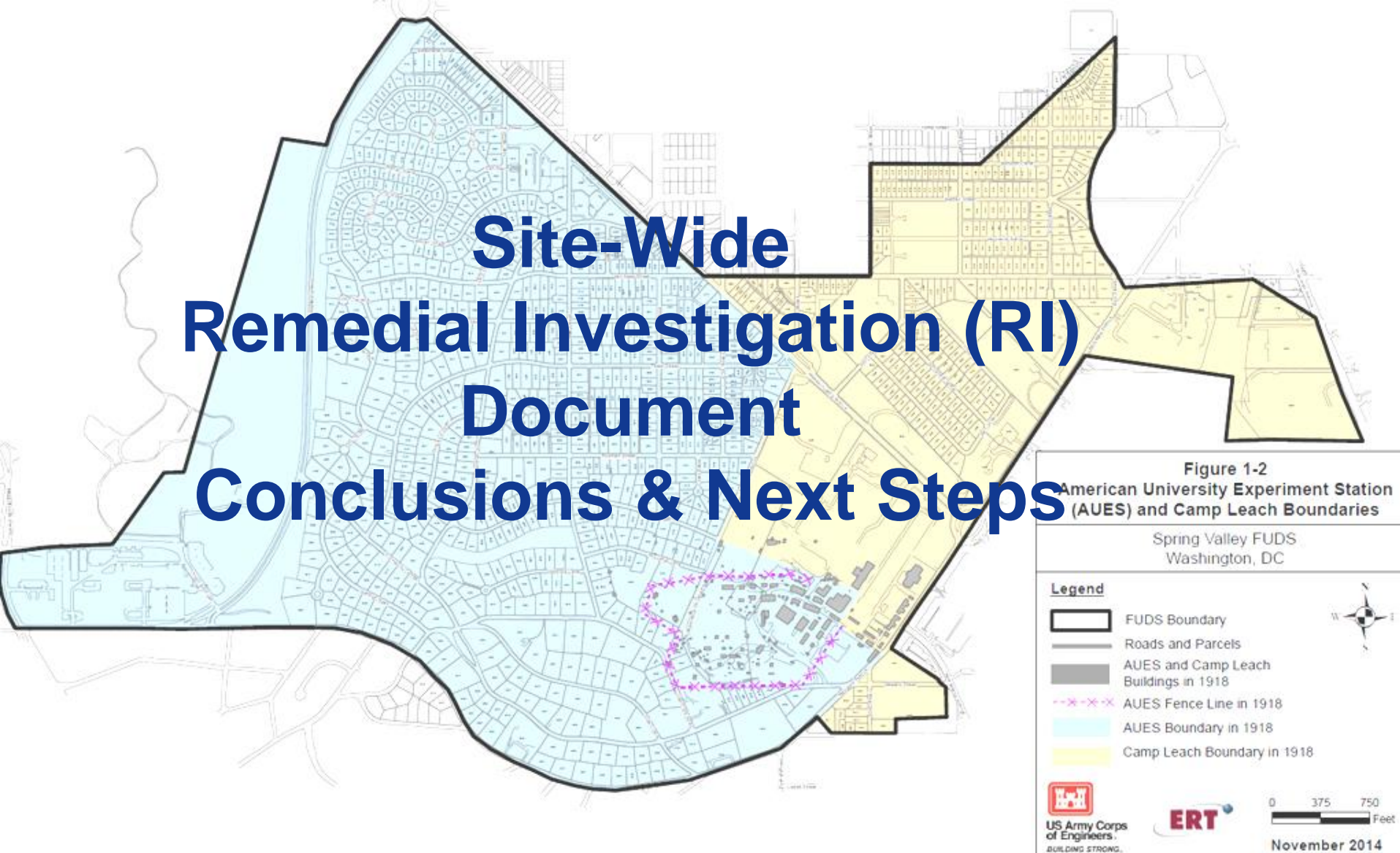
Spring 2017 through Summer 2017

Site Restoration



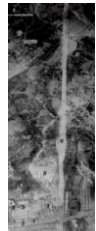
USACE Updates

Site-Wide Remedial Investigation (RI) Document Conclusions & Next Steps



The CERCLA Process

(The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act)



Preliminary Assessment



Site Inspection



Remedial Investigation

General Purpose: Collect data to characterize site conditions; Determine the nature of the waste; Assess risk to human health and the environment; & Evaluate treatment options.

Information gathered as part of the RI influences the development of the FS which, in turn, may require further data collection and field investigations.



Feasibility Study

General Purpose: To develop, screen, and evaluate alternatives for clean-up.

Decision Document



General Purpose: Select the alternative as well as provide an overview of the project. This would include site history, previous and current investigations, and characterization of contamination.



Proposed Plan

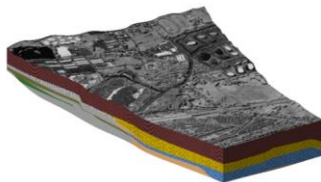
General Purpose: Presents the evaluation of clean-up alternatives and provides a recommendation for the preferred alternative.

This document is made available for public review and comment.



Removal Action

General Purpose: If prompt action is deemed appropriate prior to the completion of the RI/FS process, USACE will begin removal of the contaminants of concern.



Remedial Design/ Remedial Action

General Purpose: Implementation of the action determined in the Decision Document.



Long Term Monitoring

General Purpose: To conduct any long term monitoring necessary and conduct five year reviews of the Formerly Used Defense Site.

Question received at the March RAB meeting from a community member:

Q: “Will a homeowner be compensated because they may have lost equity in their house due to these results?”

A: The Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking its actions in Spring Valley pursuant to the authority granted to it by Congress under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, located at 10 U.S.C. § 2700 (DERP). DERP authorizes the Corps to “carry out a program of environmental restoration” in accordance with CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, located at 42 U.S.C. § 9601) 10 U.S.C. § 2701(a). DERP’s goals are the “cleanup of contamination” and “correction of other environmental damage.” 10 U.S.C. § 2701(b).

Because DERP authorizes the Corps only to restore properties, the Corps is not authorized to compensate homeowners for potential or actual, permanent or temporary, declines in property values that occur during cleanup activities.

In the event you have questions about how this affects you as a homeowner, you should consult an attorney.

Spring Valley Military History

CIVIL WAR



Ft. Gaines & other forts located near SV area during Civil War era.

WWI



American University Experiment Station (AUES) 1917-1919, Built for CWM development & testing

WWII



Camp Leach, 1917-1919, Built for troop training

WWII



Navy Bomb Disposal School 1942-1946, on AU campus for research & education

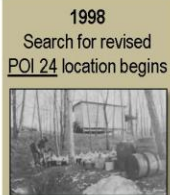
SPRING VALLEY FUDS TIMELINE 1993 – 2015

Munitions **Glenbrook Rd.** Groundwater **Soil**
Documents **Munitions Destruction** Health

1986 – Army conducts historical study for possible AUES burials



January 5, 1993
Buried WWI munitions found in utility trench on 52nd Ct.



1998
Search for revised POI 24 location begins



Mar. 1999 – Mar. 2001
Intrusive investigation of Pits 1 & 2



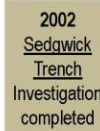
2001 – 2006
AU Small Disposal Area & AU Lot 18 investigated



2003
Containers of CWM (including Lewisite), found at Lot 18



May 2001 – Mar. 2002
High prob. investigation of Test Pit 23 (aka Pit 3)



2002
Sedgwick Trench Investigation completed



2003
Recovered chemical & conventional munitions destroyed

Oct. 2007 – Mar. 2009
High prob. investigation of Pit 3 resumes & is completed



2007 – 2008
4835 Glenbrook Test Pits

2009 – 2011
FUDS western boundary near Dalecarlia Pkwy & Woods investigated

2009 – 2010
4825 High Prob. Test Pits

Aug. 2010
4825 becomes separate CERCLA project site to expedite cleanup

2010
Recovered chemical munitions destroyed

Fall 2012 –
4825 Proposed Plan accepted. Remedial Action: Demolition & cleanup begins



Winter 2012 –
4825 & AU areas PRP Investigation begins

2011 & 2012
Recovered conventional munitions destroyed

1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015

1993
AUES Historical Report issued & 54 Points of Interest (POIs) established



July 1996
DC Dept. of Health report critical of USACE investigation released

June 1995
Remedial Investigation Report issued

June 1995
No Further Action Record of Decision released, never finalized

January 2000
Soil investigation of 9 properties & several lots on AU, including the Child Dev. Center - munitions investigations conducted



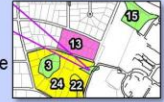
2001
Child Dev. Center soil remediation completed

2000
Extensive soil sampling at 4825

1999 – 2001
Pits 1 & 2 area soil removal

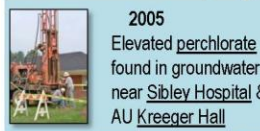
2001 – 2012 Site-wide arsenic sampling & removal at 1,600 Spring Valley properties / lots

2002 – 2007
Areas of Interests Task Force (AOITF) find 28 areas (AOIs) to be addressed in addition to 54 POIs



March 2008
AUES Chemical Parameters Report Released

April 2004
Formation of Spring Valley Partnership



2005
Elevated perchlorate found in groundwater near Sibley Hospital & AU Kreeger Hall

2012
SV perchlorate determined to be from Chilean source

Fall 2012
AOI Sampling completed

Mar. 2015
Site Wide RI Report Released

March 2001
RAB established

2002
Two ATSDR studies consider potential health risks from SV arsenic concentrations

2005
ATSDR Study determines munitions pits from former SV military activities are public health hazards

2006
Johns Hopkins Univ. (JHU) study finds SV resident health very good overall

2011 – 2013
JHU follow-on health study

2011 –
ATSDR Study of 4825 initiated

Spring Valley FUDS

Section 8 Summary and Conclusions

The conclusions of the Spring Valley RI are:

- Certain areas will proceed to the Feasibility Study (FS) due to potential concerns with risks identified in the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA).
 - Southern American University Exposure Unit and the Spaulding and Captain Rankin Area (SCRA) (*one property*).
- Certain areas will proceed to the Feasibility Study (FS) due to potential concerns with hazards identified in the Munition and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA)
 - Function Test Range, Static Test Fire Area, Area of Interest (AOI) 13, and the Public Safety Building.



**Figure 8-1
Areas for Evaluation
in the FS**

Spring Valley FUDS
Washington, DC

Legend

- Areas of Potential Explosive Hazard for Evaluation in the FS
- Areas of Potential Carcinogenic / Non-Carcinogenic Risk for Evaluation in the FS
- Buffer Zone (150 FT) of Statically Fired Testing Areas
- Function Test Range (Stokes and Livens)
- Area of Interest (AOI)
- Point of Interest (POI)
- Range Fan
- Parcels
- FUDS Boundary

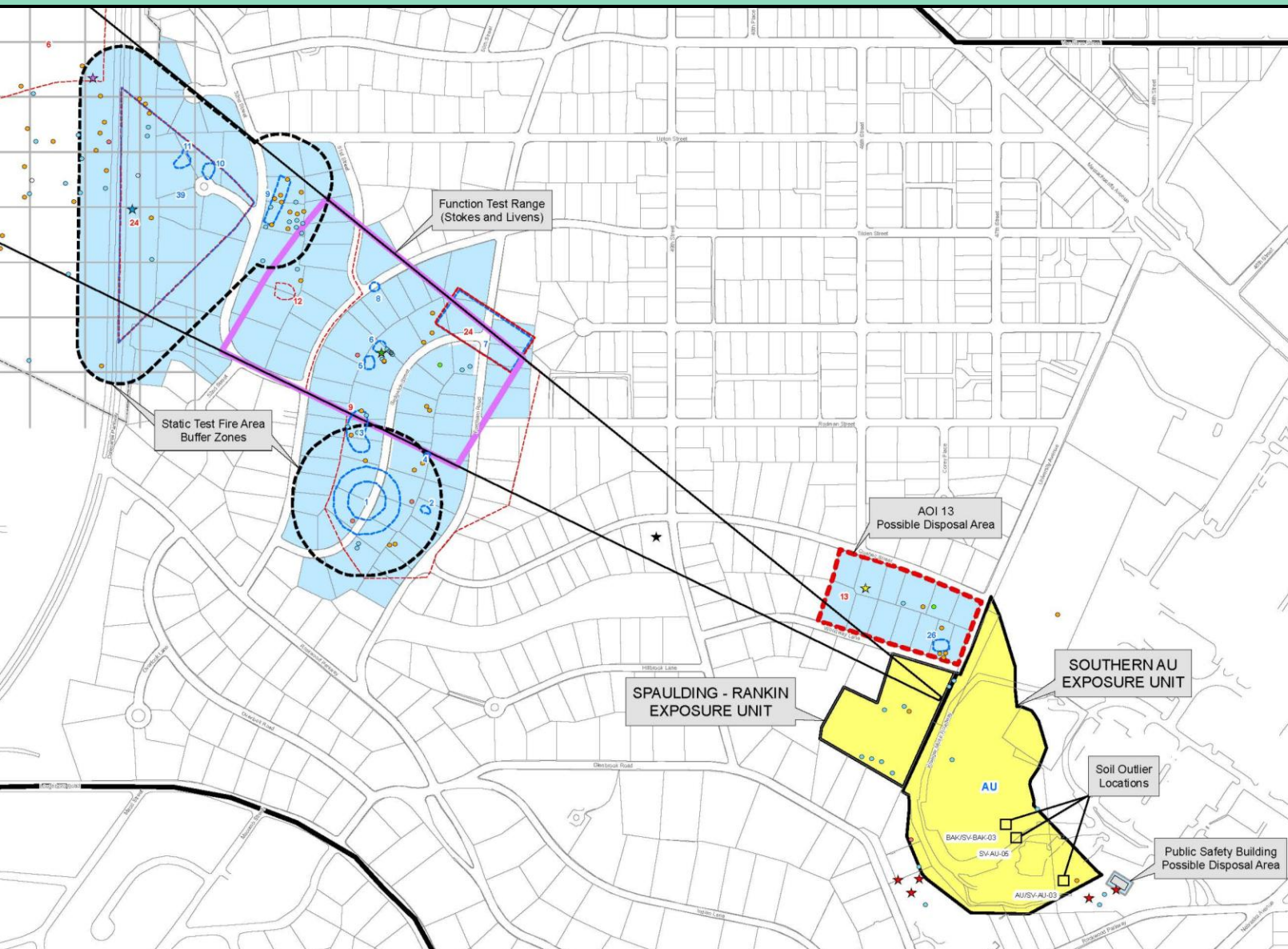
Items

- ★ Livens Projectile (MEC)
- ★ Stokes Mortar (MEC)
- ★ 75 mm Projectile (MEC)
- ★ Thermite Grenade (MEC)
- ★ Pipe with Explosives (MEC)
- ★ Disposal Area (MEC/CWM)
- 75 mm MD
- Livens MD
- Stokes Mortar MD
- MD (miscellaneous)
- Non-AUES MD



0 250 500
Feet

February 2015



Spring Valley FUDS

Site-Wide RI Public Comment Period

- USACE plans to review the RI recommendations at a Community Meeting held on **Tuesday, May 12** in the *Vestry Meeting Room at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church*, 3401 Nebraska Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20016.

There will be an open house from 6:30-7 pm, with a formal presentation and question and answer session from 7 – 8 pm.
- The 45-day public comment period for the draft RI report began on April 8 and goes through **May 26, 2015**. Ads announcing the public comment period were placed in The Washington Post and The NW Current on April 8.
- The Remedial Investigation Report can be found online under Project Efforts/Remedial Investigation: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx> or in the Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Branch Library, located at 4450 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, DC.
- **AMENDMENT:** Written comments can be sent to the following mailing address:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: **Brittany Bangert**, Rm. 11400,
10 South Howard St., Baltimore, MD 21201;
or by e-mail to: brittany.m.bangert@usace.army.mil



Spring Valley FUDS

Feasibility Study

The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to develop, screen, and evaluate alternatives to achieve possible remedial action objectives.

Viable alternatives will be presented for public review in the Proposed Plan.

EPA's Screening Criterion for clean-up alternatives:

- Threshold
 - Overall Protection of Human Health and Environment;
 - Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs);
- Balancing
 - Long-term Effectiveness;
 - Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility and Volume Through Treatment;
 - Short-term Effectiveness;
 - Implementability (Technical Feasibility, Administrative Feasibility, & Availability of Materials and Services);
 - Cost;
- Modifying Criteria
 - Regulator Acceptance; and
 - Community Acceptance.



Spring Valley FUDS

Tentative Schedule for Site-Wide RI Report

April 8	Formal 45-day public comment period begins.
May 12	Community meeting to brief the community on the RI document's content and conclusions.
May 26	Public comment period ends. USACE addresses public comments and finalizes the RI report.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility Study to be conducted to evaluate alternatives for addressing any unacceptable risks or hazards identified in the Final RI Report in Fall 2015.• Prepare the Proposed Plan and start public comment period in Winter 2015/2016.• Prepare and sign the Decision Document in Summer 2016• Begin remedial design/remedial action plan/conduct clean-up action from ~2017-2020

Spring Valley FUDS Restoration Advisory Board



RAB

Questions & Answers

on the

Remedial Investigation Report



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Community Items



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➤ Reminders:

- The *Community Meeting* on the RI report will be Tuesday, May 12th
- The next *RAB* meeting will be Tuesday, July 14th

➤ Upcoming Agenda Items

- Suggestions?
-

- 4825 Glenbrook Road Health Consultation Update (ATSDR) - TBD



Spring Valley FUDS

Restoration Advisory Board



- **Public Comments**
- **Wrap-Up**



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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Spring Valley Joint Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
St. David's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the May 5, 2015 RAB Meeting**

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Dan Noble	Military Co-Chair/USACE, Spring Valley MMRP Manager
Greg Beumel	Community Co-Chair
George Vassiliou	Community Member
Tom Smith	Community Member
Mary Douglas	Community Member
Dr. Peter deFur	Environmental Stewardship Concepts/RAB TAPP Consultant
Alma Gates	At Large Representative – Horace Mann Elementary School
James Sweeney	Agency Representative – District Department of the Environment
Malcolm Pritzker	Community Member
Lawrence Miller	Community Member
Ralph Cantral	Community Member
John Wheeler	Community Member
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT THIS MEETING	
Linda Argo	At Large Representative – American University
Mary Bresnahan	Community Member
Kathleen Connell	Community Member
Paul Dueffert	Community Member
Steve Hirsh	Agency Representative – US Environmental Protection Agency
William Krebs	Community Member
Lee Monsein	Community Member
ATTENDING PROJECT PERSONNEL	
Brenda Barber	USACE, Spring Valley Project Manager
Andrea Takash	USACE, Corporate Communications Office
Alex Zahl	USACE, Spring Valley Technical Manager
Brittany Bangert	USACE, Corporate Communications Office
Rebecca Yahiel	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program

Carrie Johnston	Spring Valley Community Outreach Program
Rebekah McCoy	ERT
HANDOUTS FROM THE MEETING	
I. Final Agenda for the May 5, 2015 RAB Meeting II. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation III. Spring Valley Project Timeline IV. CERCLA Factsheet V. Remedial Investigation Factsheet VI. April 2015 Monthly Project Summary VII. April 2015 <i>Corps 'pondent</i>	

AGENDA

Starting Time: The May 5, 2015 RAB meeting began at 7:08 PM.

I. Administrative Items

A. Co-Chair Updates

Greg Beumel, Community Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He turned the meeting over to Dan Noble, Spring Valley Project Manager and Military Co-Chair.

D. Noble welcomed everyone to the RAB meeting and noted that he will go over updates up front and then brief on groundwater and 4825 Glenbrook Road. The Site-Wide Remedial Investigation (RI) report will be reviewed with basic conclusions and outcomes. Time was allowed in the agenda for the RAB to discuss the RI report and ask USACE questions. Currently the public comment period is halfway completed. D. Noble thanked everyone for agreeing to move the RAB meeting up a week to accommodate the community meeting.

D. Noble introduced Officer Tony McElwee with the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District.

Officer T. McElwee explained that he is there to direct everyone in case there is a shelter in place emergency. He did not have any news to bring to the RAB.

He thanked the group for having him and turned the meeting back over to D. Noble.

B. Introductions

D. Noble introduced two new project personnel.

Alex Zahl is a geologist who works with USACE in Baltimore District. Brittany Bangert is with the Corporate Communications Office and will be coming to RAB and Community meetings and assisting on the project.

The new personnel are in response to other personnel leaving. Lan Reeser was very significant to the project because he was the last employee who had been on the Spring Valley project since day one, Jan 5, 1993. He recently retired and received the de Fleury medal. The de Fleury

medal was the first medal authorized by the new Continental Congress in the 1700s. It's typically given out through the engineer regiment.

Andrea Takash, with the Army Corps' Corporate Communications Office, will also be leaving the project for another opportunity outside of USACE.

C. General Announcements

D. Noble announced the latest website updates. The Site-Wide RI report can be accessed and downloaded from the project website (<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx>). The March and April 2015 monthly project updates are on the website. The weekly updates on the activities on Glenbrook Road are also posted. The February Partnering meeting minutes and the March RAB meeting minutes are also available online. The project timeline has been updated and is online.

After the last meeting, Mary Douglas, RAB Member, had stated that at one time during the project, USACE asked homeowners to contact USACE if they were planning on excavating or digging on their property. USACE looked back through the records and found that in a couple 2002 *Corps'pondents* there was a notice to call D.C. Department of Health or USACE before work that involved excavating or digging began. The July 2002 notice stated that USACE wanted to know where digging was occurring just in case they were planning to do investigative work in the same area. The investigation is now complete and USACE has gathered the information needed to write the RI report. There is no reason to hold back any project that a resident wants to do in the neighborhood.

D. Task Group Updates

No task group updates were presented.

II. USACE Updates

D. Noble, provided a brief status update on the groundwater investigation.

B. Barber, Spring Valley Project Manager, provided an update on the activities at 4825 Glenbrook Road.

D. Noble provided an overview of the Site-Wide RI results and next steps.

A. Groundwater Study

The groundwater will now be sampled annually. The 2015 sampling event occurred during the last week in April and the beginning of May. The team sampled a few groundwater well locations on the American University (AU) campus around Kreeger Hall and near Sibley Hospital. USACE is not currently sampling surface water locations. The new multiport well on Rockwood Parkway, MW-5, will be sampled again soon. The public space permit has been requested in order for the contractor to sample the well. The permit is expected in June. The road will need to be closed again in order to sample the well.

The Draft Site-Wide Groundwater RI report is currently under internal review by USACE. A draft-final report will be submitted to the Partners and P. deFur tentatively by mid-summer for review.

Question from Tom Smith, Community Member - Why does USACE need the public space permit to sample the well?

D. Noble explained that we needed the permit in order to close the road. Detour signs will be posted to direct commuters down Indian Lane and Glenbrook Road.

B. 4825 Glenbrook Road

High Probability

High probability operations are continuing under the second tent location. The team is currently working in the backyard of the property and the crews have demolished the majority of the retaining wall. The team is installing lagging along the shared property line between 4825 Glenbrook Road and the adjacent property to the south. As the team digs deeper, the lagging will provide protection for the excavation at depth.

The crews are excavating in the former back porch area. The porch was constructed out of cinderblock with a poured concrete top. The teams have made it through the concrete top and left the cinderblock wall intact so they can segregate the soil as they excavate. That material is being drummed because of the past detections of mustard and lewisite in this particular area. It has been a slow process due to drumming soil and the extra concrete and debris encountered. It is anticipated the crew will be in the area for the next three to four weeks.

On April 22, 2015 crews recovered an unfuzed, unfired, open cavity 75mm munitions debris (MD) item that was non-detect for chemical agent and has been transferred to Federal Property where it is in storage. All items will be disposed of at the end of the project. A small amount of American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related glassware debris has been recovered in the backyard area since the last RAB meeting. All items were cleared for agent and sent to Federal Property for storage.

To date under the second tent, USACE has removed 65 roll-offs of soil and 9 roll-offs of rubble, and 520 cubic yards of the anticipated 935 cubic yards for the area. About 25.5 lbs. of glassware, all of which has cleared headspace, has been found. No intact glass containers have been found in the backyard property under this tent location. Three intact 75mm MD items, one open cavity 75mm, and two 4.7" projectiles determined to be material documented as safe (MDAS) have been found. It is important to note that there have been no detections for chemical agent under this tent location from the MINICAMS.

Schedule

The project remains on schedule with an anticipated completion of the current high-probability investigations in the current tent location and third tent location during the winter of 2016/2017. The remaining low probability work and site restoration will be completed in the summer of 2017.

Discussion

Question from Peter deFur, RAB TAPP Consultant – Was the rest of the house was also cinder block?

B. Barber replied that other portions of the home are cinderblock as well and the retaining wall has a thin concrete surface. Further concrete was placed over the soil that was placed inside the wall. The team is continuing to work through some of the different construction approaches that the builder took at this property. This is time consuming because the team is encountering more concrete and debris than expected from a construction perspective.

Question from P. deFur, RAB TAPP Consultant – Is there a temperature at which summertime work slows down or shuts off?

B. Barber explained that last summer, when they experienced extreme heat, USACE approached the local residents to ask if the team could work earlier hours from 6am to 2pm. Currently, USACE is waiting to see how the summer weather progresses. It is likely that USACE will communicate with the residents about summer hours again so that the crews can take advantage of the cooler weather in the early mornings.

C. Site-Wide Remedial Investigation (RI) Document Process and Conclusions

The CERCLA process was not established by USACE, but it is a process that USACE must follow to remediate a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). Following finalization of the RI, USACE will produce the Feasibility Study (FS). The Final FS is followed by the Proposed Plan (PP) and a Decision Document (DD). The signed DD moves the project into the remedial design/remedial action phase where the remediation steps are taken that were determined and laid out in the DD. Site history, and work that has been done at the site, is all taken into account during the first steps of the CERCLA process. The RI analyzes all collected data and determines the remaining issues that need to be addressed. From the FS going forward, the scope of work is narrowed down to what actions need to be taken to end the active work phase of the project. USACE will always be responsible for any additional work in the Spring Valley FUDS if additional information is uncovered or clean-up standards change significantly.

At the last RAB meeting the question was asked whether a homeowner would be compensated because they may have lost equity in their house due to the results of the RI's conclusions. P. deFur prepared a memo for the RAB highlighting the information he has found on the issue. According to USACE legal counsel, USACE is not authorized to expend funds for this purpose. USACE is undertaking its actions in Spring Valley pursuant to the authority granted by Congress under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). DERP authorizes USACE to carry out a program of environmental restoration in accordance with CERCLA. Because DERP authorizes USACE only to restore properties, USACE is not authorized to compensate homeowners for potential or actual, permanent or temporary, declines in property values that occur during cleanup activities. If a homeowner wants to pursue a claim against USACE or sue USACE, those are legal questions and the homeowner should consult an attorney. Under DERP, USACE can only conduct restoration activities. If USACE damages property directly as a result of a remedial activity, USACE is fully authorized to reimburse the property owner for damage caused by the person or team while conducting those activities.

A few items have been added to the Spring Valley timeline factsheet. The first item was the release of the draft Site-Wide RI conclusions in March 2015. The second item was the historical study report conducted by USATHAMA in 1986. This second item was added at the request of a community member.

The first recommendation of the RI states two specific areas will proceed to an FS due to potential concerns with potential risks identified in the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) with respect to chemical contaminants in the soil; the Southern AU Exposure Unit (EU) and the Spaulding and Captain Rankin Area (SCRA) property adjacent to the AU campus. The second recommendation of the RI states areas encompassing about 100 properties in Spring Valley will proceed to the FS due to potential concerns with hazards identified in the Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Hazard Assessment (HA). The historical locations that were called out in the assessment include the test range, a few static test fire areas, Area of Interest (AOI) 13, and the area immediately around and underneath the Public Safety Building (PSB) on AU campus.

The public comment period for the Draft-Final RI report is underway. The 45-day public comment period began on April 8, 2015 and ends on May 26, 2015. Comments and information can be sent to Brittany Bangert. The RI report is online and is physically available in the information repository at the Tenley-Friendship Branch Library. The report can be found at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley.aspx>. On Tuesday May 12, 2015, there will be a community public meeting to discuss the RI. USACE will be available to take questions and provide information and clarification on any aspect of the report. The community meeting will begin at 6:30pm at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church at 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20106 in the Vestry Meeting Room. All comments will be entered into a formal record and will be responded to in writing in the responsiveness document.

P. deFur asked if there will also be a place where someone could put in a written comment.

D. Noble replied that forms, pens, and a box will be available for those who want to write comments at the meeting and place them in the comment box.

After the public comment period has ended, adjustments and changes may be made based on the public comments. The FS will look specifically at the issues identified in the finalized RI report and will develop alternatives to address them. EPA states that alternatives are judged by nine total criteria. These nine criteria are used to evaluate all different alternatives. The Proposed Plan (PP) makes a final recommendation which is evaluated by the public and the regulators. The balancing criteria consider community and regulator acceptance and are summarized in a DD.

Overall Schedule: A public meeting will be held on May 12, 2015 and the public comment period will close on May 26, 2015. USACE will address the public comments and finalize the RI report. The FS is projected to be completed by fall 2015. The PP will then be prepared and begin regulator review during winter 2015/2016. USACE will prepare and sign the DD in summer of 2016, followed immediately by the remedial design/remedial action plans. Remedial activities are expected to occur from 2017 to 2020.

Discussion

Question from Susan Bayh, Audience Member – What is the anticipated first day a property would be tested?

D. Noble replied that testing is completed and we are now moving to the point where we can start to take remedial actions at properties. D. Noble confirmed that half of the properties had been tested during the RI phase.

S. Bayh asked if the other half was going to be tested.

D. noble replied that the testing was representative of the whole group and they are now moving towards possibly proposing remedial actions on each property.

S. Bayh stated that her property was never tested for the items that USACE is looking for. How can USACE take a remedial action if you do not know what you are looking for?

Question from S. Bayh, Audience Member – No property will be cleared before 2017 and USACE would not assist with mortgages, carrying costs or other financial burdens with carrying multiple homes. Is there any way to speed up the process?

D. Noble concurred and stated that there are no funds for USACE to assist financially and they are not authorized to do so. USACE will work as efficiently as they can but the site requires a regulatory process that USACE must follow.

Question from Tom Smith, Community Member - Is the schedule a factor of money or is it a factor of how much time is actually involved in accomplishing each of these steps?

D. Noble replied it takes time to get through the regulatory process.

Question from S. Bayh, Audience Member – Once USACE completes remediation of a property, is that property cleared or does the entire area need to be cleared before that single property is considered cleared?

D. Noble responded USACE would work through the process at each property as efficiently as possible. There will be possibly gaps between collecting data and clearing the property while the data is being analyzed. However once the property's potential remediation is complete, it would be considered cleared.

Question from Pat Kelly Brown, Audience Member – If you want to sell your house, what are you obligated to reveal to a potential buyer in terms of what is going on in the community?

D. Noble stated the homeowner would need to contact a real estate professional who would assist in selling the home.

P. Brown asked if USACE would provide any documentation on activities that occurred on the property and that the property had been cleared of any munitions?

D. Noble stated they have provided letters and all documentation on the site is publicly available. Most residents of Spring Valley have at least one letter from USACE.

P. Brown stated she has 20 year old letter, but does not know where it is located. Can that letter be retrieved or resent?

D. Noble replied that USACE can reissue letters that had been previously issued.

P. Brown asked USACE to update a 20 year old comfort letter.

D. Noble explained that USACE could not replicate original comfort letters because they were signed by EPA and DC, not by the USACE. USACE cannot regenerate the letter without going through these two other agencies. If USACE reissues an arsenic sampling results letter, a signed copy of what was sent originally would be signed with a more recent date and noting the original issue date of the letter. The body of the letter would remain the same.

P. Brown asked what happens to those letters if there was a change in property's status? For instance, if the home is now one of the 100 properties.

D. Noble answered that arsenic letters are still valid. With respect to munitions concerns the only outstanding letters are for the 100 properties. If you live outside of these properties and had received a letter in the past, the RI report states that there are no issues with those areas. The homeowner would no longer need the letter as the RI document supersedes it.

Comment from Larry Miller, Community Member - Mary Bresnahan is a Real Estate agent on the RAB and would know what the standard disclosure documents are.

S. Bayh stated everything changed on February 19, 2015 when new letters were sent out to the 100 properties. The sale of her home has been stopped due to potential buyers being scared by the USACE letters. USACE may not have to compensate us but we need to determine how to enhance the knowledge of potential buyers without scaring them.

Malcolm Pritzker, Community Member stated that in a previous meeting, it was suggested to bring in a Real Estate professional to answer these kinds of questions.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member – Have the 100 properties or families been notified by USACE individually?

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member – When USACE selected the properties that were surveyed for munitions of the 100, should any assumptions be made that those properties are more problematic than a property that were not tested?

D. Noble explained that USACE attempted to select enough properties to gain enough information to determine if there is an issue for the entire area. The properties were chosen somewhat randomly. There is no differentiation in hazard level between the properties.

Question from Audience Member 1 – What is a land use control?

D. Noble explained that an example of a land use control (LUC) is a fence. In some situations, using a LUC will work so that the problem does not need to be addressed in other ways. A LUC for locations where land is being used is to place a restriction on the deed of the property to prevent encountering hazards or risks. A restriction could state that digging deeper than 6 feet on the property is prohibited. There have been attempts at other FUDS to use administrative controls to address the problem.

Question from Larry Miller, Community Member – Is USACE going to be entering each of the 100 properties eventually? What will USACE do when they come on to the property?

D. Noble explained that the FS will describe the remediation alternatives that USACE is considering. The remedial actions should be similar to when USACE investigated the properties initially, such as a geophysical survey. The survey attempts to gather information about metal buried in the ground followed by determining how much of the metal needs to be removed in order to sufficiently clear the property.

Question from Alma Gates, At Large Representative - Will USACE conduct new geophysical surveys or will USACE refer back to the previous work?

D. Noble explained that USACE might be able to use geophysical information already collected, however this determination will be on a property-by-property basis. It depends on what has occurred on the property since then and if USACE can reestablish control points at the property. If soil or the ground has shifted, USACE might collect new data.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member – For the 100 properties, it does not necessarily mean that each one of those properties has something that needs to be remediated. Is that correct?

D. Noble confirmed this and explained that during the investigation, about half were already investigated. This will be taken into consideration when USACE begins to develop the remedial design. A recommendation to cover each property will come out in the DD; the action as it is designed and finally unfolds could vary from property to property. Two alternatives that are required to be considered as part of the FS are ‘no action’ and LUCs. LUCs take care of the problem not by taking action but by taking administrative steps to control the hazard or risk.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member – What percentage of these 100 homes have been selected because of Chemicals of Potential Concerns or heavy metals, not because of munitions?

D. Noble replied none; the 100 properties have been selected because of potential hazards with munitions. The AU Exposure Unit and the SCRA properties have been selected due to concerns with residual chemicals in the soil.

Statement from Mara Miller, Audience Member – According to the history that I have read, the Army shot missiles from three different vantage points towards Dalecarlia Woods. The Livens gun pit was only one of three. I am wondering why USACE excluded the other two.

D. Noble replied USACE found there was one firing point at the Livens gun pit, which also fired other types of mortars at that same location resulting in one range fan.

M. Miller stated if it were documented and brought to USACE's attention would USACE be open to reviewing the document.

D. Noble confirmed this.

Question from Allen Hengst, Audience Member – Thank you for adding USACE's 1986 report on possible burials to the Spring Valley Timeline. Is the same study that was done for AU before they built Bender Arena?

D. Noble confirmed this.

A. Hengst stated he understood that it was not just text but that the report included actual photos from 1918 and asked if the 1986 report identified areas other than Bender Arena where there might be buried munitions in Spring Valley

D. Noble responded there was an aerial photographic analysis that was part of that report and he did not believe other areas were identified but he would need to review the conclusions of the report to answer that question.

A. Hengst asked if EPA's EPIC (EPIC stands for Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center) conducted part of the 1986 study? Does USACE know what the EPIC's conclusions were?

D. Noble concurred that EPA did conduct part of that report and does not know what the conclusions were.

A. Hengst stated that the EPIC report supposedly identified areas outside of Bender Area, so that makes it a crucial event in 1986, which was 7 years before the discoveries at 52nd Court and Operation Safe Removal. AU knew, the Army knew and EPA knew but they kept quiet about it.

If a homeowner bought a house between 1986 and 1993 thinking the area was clear, is there damage for people who unknowingly bought homes in Spring Valley?

D. Noble replied that in 1920 the Army completed its activities at AUES and left. The Army knew about the activities conducted at the site since 1920.

Statement from G. Durrin, Audience Member – To be historically accurate, USACE should include all of the documentation produced by the 1986 effort. The report included maps with dates from 1986, aerial maps showing the ground scars and areas to become points of interest. Documents including the 1986 report and the EPA EPIC overlay maps should be in the Tenley-Friendship Public Library.

D. Noble replied that if the report is not currently at the library, then a copy of the report will be placed in the library.

Statement from Malcolm Pritzker, Community Member – Some of us have been on the committee for a long time and this is not a new discussion. These issues have been discussed over many meetings. My understanding of the CERCLA process is that we have no choice, it is a process we have to follow, the government dictated it and we are going to go through it.

Statement from S. Bayh, Audience Member – For those 100 properties you have basically froze them out of the market.

G. Beumel stated one of the issues for the committee is to push along the process as fast as possible. We have seen the difficulties with demolishing the 4825 Glenbrook Road house and how long it has taken to make it through the process for one property.

T. Smith stated that the RAB is learning about the CERCLA process at the same pace that the community is.

S. Bayh stated only a small piece of her property is affected and it was one of the 50 properties that never were tested. When I put the home on the market, I had the all clear letter but now there is a huge shadow over the property. There are a couple of alternatives for property owners in this situation: The first is to move the process as quickly as possible. The second is to explain the situation in a letter without scaring potential buyers. The third is to realize that there is real financial pain. The community and DC should not want this shadow over the properties in our community. Mostly buyers with small children are looking to buy and whom we would want in the community. We should warn and disclose the information to potential buyers, but we do not have to show pictures of unexploded munitions (UXO) and soldiers with UXO in their hands.

Question from G. Durrin, Audience Member – Is there any way, if residents are really trying to sell their home, to remediate those properties sooner than some of the others during the remediation phase.

D. Noble explained USACE can work with people to explain the situation, the process, what the issues are, the relative risks and hazards and what USACE feels about them. USACE can work to establish priorities as to how to work through the remediation.

Question from S. Bayh, Audience Member – Is it a possibility for me to pay or hire the USACE contractor to do the work and have USACE direct them. I am convinced there is nothing wrong with my house. Alternatively, is it a possibility to have a private contractor do the work that we could give the money too?

D. Noble replied no, it is about the analytical and decision making process. We must go through these CERCLA steps to arrive at the solution.

S. Bayh stated that she would like to see USACE not overkill the solution; i.e. to geophysically survey a property again in order to look deeper in the soil or survey more of the property to insure that the property is perfect.

D. Noble stated that the process is designed to help you determine the appropriate solution so you do not overkill the solution. When USACE begins the work, the team will work within the limits of the technology available to address the issue.

S. Bayh stated that USACE will probably hire a contractor to complete the work. As a homeowner that would like to get it done sooner, could I hire the contractor and could USACE setup a protocol so that a homeowner could hire a contractor?

D. Noble stated that a homeowner can hire a contractor to do whatever you want but that does not stop USACE from having to go through the CERCLA process and informing the homeowner about what USACE thinks and what actions USACE must take. There have been instances at other FUDS sites where private landowners have accepted all responsibility for contamination and have let the Department of Defense off the hook because USACE's schedule has not matched with theirs. Usually this occurs with sophisticated companies conducting large construction projects on large parcels of land.

T. Smith stated that if property owners were to take responsibility of their properties, it raises another issue. It does not eliminate the potential problem at the property and puts more burdens on the residents to require DDOE to take responsibility for changes made on that property. We should not be circumventing the regulatory process. If it is possible that receiving more money could speed the process that is worth discussing.

D. Noble noted USACE would look at that as the process continues.

Question from T. Smith, Community Member – Where would the issue of timing and cost come into the CERCLA process for review and evaluation?

D. Noble stated timing and duration of remediation would be part of the remedial design; how USACE approaches the work and how many people will conduct the work at any one time.

P. deFur stated groundwork for this is laid out in the FS. Specifics will be put together in the remedial design. The FS is where the general scope of how the problem will be addressed is considered.

T. Smith asked would the RAB get an assessment of overall cost in the FS.

P. deFur noted cost is one of the nine criteria used to evaluate alternatives in the FS. A table is set up in the FS to show if each alternative addresses each one of the nine criteria. The FS includes estimates on how long each of the alternatives will take. Once teams are on the ground you can put more shovels in. However, until you know whether or not you are going to use shovels, that process cannot be sped up.

Question from A. Gates, Community Member – It is also important to point out that AU went to Congress and got money to move the process forward for them. I do not understand why this community cannot go to Congresswoman Norton, even though it may take a lot of them.

G. Beumel stated that D. Noble cannot go to politicians and ask for money. There have been several cases where more money has suddenly shown up for Spring Valley. However, USACE is not scheduled to start remediation until around 2017. There is limited flexibility to shorten the document-writing schedule before then. However, there is an approximate three-year period for remediation that might be shortened with increased funding.

M. Pritzker reiterated that even if we obtained more money now, it will not help speed up anything until this process is much further along.

G. Beumel noted there are specific public comment periods that need to occur. It took USACE longer to review this first RI report than was originally scheduled; these things happen. These documents need to be completed in series. No remediation will occur until there is a signed Decision Document stating what USACE is going to do. There are administrative items that need to occur that the RAB can assist in decreasing the timeframe but not extending the comment period. Only so many project personnel can write the required reports.

D. Noble stated that P. deFur has worked at many CERCLA sites around the county. D. Noble asked P. deFur's opinion on the timeline that USACE has presented.

P. deFur replied the schedule is on the aggressive side and is a bit optimistic. Contractors have started drafting the FS. They have designed geophysical investigations, collected and analyzed data on a number of properties during the RI phase. Even though the work may be more efficient this time, the analysis can only be accelerated so much.

D. Noble added that he did not want to get everyone's expectations up too much. Many steps that USACE needs to complete for Spring Valley traditionally take a long time at large sites.

P. deFur noted that in the FS, USACE must consider multiple remedial action options, including but not limited to, 'no action,' LUCs, digging up every property (unlikely). Each alternative must be evaluated, which takes time. USACE has to estimate the costs for all alternatives, estimate the effectiveness, estimate the long term protection of human health, etc. Each of the nine criteria must be considered for each one of the remediation alternatives.

Question from Mary Douglas, Community Member – Since every property is different, are you saying that the nine criteria have to be applied to each property?

P. deFur replied the FS evaluates each property but does not evaluate each property for the nine criteria.

Question from George Vassiliou, Community Member – Which document will have a final or semifinal budget that the RAB can look at to form an opinion? At that point, we can go to the politicians and their representatives to ask for more money.

D. Noble replied that the budget will be in the FS. When the FS is released to P. deFur and the regulators, the RAB will be informed of USACE's thoughts on the costs of the alternatives.

Comment from Ralph Cantral, Community Member – The schedule is one of the most important things the RAB can do something about. When the FS comes out in the fall of 2015 with some cost estimates, the RAB can start working with political folks to make sure that the money is synchronized, so that as soon as USACE gets to the point where remedial action can begin, USACE has the money to do it.

Question from Larry Miller, Community Member – What occurs on the schedule between the Decision Document in summer 2016 and beginning of the remedial design and action plan in 2017?

D. Noble explained USACE would start the remedial design as soon as the DD is signed. USACE would then request funds for remedial actions to arrive beginning fiscal year 2017.

L. Miller asked if USACE meets the aggressive schedule, then the remedial design could begin either the beginning of 2017 or the end of 2016.

D. Noble concurred.

Question from L. Miller, Community Member – Although health and financial concerns are compelling, the RAB is only an advisory body and it seems to me that we could advise, which would include sending fairly worded, but un-alarming letters that are appropriate for the situation and moving the process along as fast as possible. One way to speed the process might be to clear properties as they are examined in the 2017 to 2020 period. Would no one receive an updated comfort letter on the munitions clearance until the entire three years had passed? Or would USACE provide a letter as soon as the work was completed at a property?

D. Noble responded that as soon as USACE took all actions needed at an individual property, USACE could issue a letter stating that that property is clear. The idea is eventually all letters would become obsolete because the final project documents would supersede the letters.

Statement from M. Miller, Audience Member – Meanwhile, on the other side of Spring Valley, not in the area that you have designated as a problem area, one kid per block has died young. A woman rented a home for 14 months and developed thyroid cancer. Many former residents developed thyroid problems and cancers, including myself. One of my children has already had cancer. Our house did not have any polluted soil and this was not remediated. The law does not require anyone to inform a renter of the history of a property. There are 26 pages of health information collected by neighbors that substantiate disease in the area. Historically, to my knowledge, the Army shot missiles off in three different directions towards the Dalecarlia woods. I am shocked at how this whole problem has been minimized. Therefore, although my heart goes out to people with this problem financially, death and disease is a real problem.

M. Miller stated there is no health study appropriate for a FUDS in existence in the USA. Unless you went back to the very beginning of the history of a property and checked to see what the mortality rates were and how many people got ill, you would never really know if that is a problem property or not. When people were getting sick at the Navy Yard, the government excavated sewer sediment where high rates of arsenic were found. Has sewer sediment testing been done at Spring Valley?

M. Pritzker stated that everyone in the room is really sorry if anyone gets ill; the RAB has not ignored this concern. Johns Hopkins University has come in and completed two studies; the results of those studies are readily available and have been publicized. The RAB did everything as a committee to see how the health of the Spring Valley residents compares not only national health, but to communities like Potomac and Chevy Chase. I do not know what else we can do as a committee, we can put that on a future agenda, but we have spent many months and years doing these kinds of studies.

M. Miller noted that those studies were not scientific studies. I believe they should not be on the NIH or the DC Department of Health website.

D. Noble stated that the RI report is public and lists all data that USACE has used to reach its conclusions and make recommendations. This is a large project where sampling has gone on for many years; thousands of samples have been collected and all are summarized in the RI. USACE has to refer you to the RI for specific questions, but USACE can assist in finding the answer within the document. Several members of the team are available to respond to questions community members have about the project.

M. Miller explained her family knows of two bunkers on AU property that may have been covered over. Another concern is that according to Army inventory, a certain amount of chemicals went to Edgewood [Maryland] for destruction, while the remainder was buried. However, the amounts are in tons and I am wondering where they put tons [of chemicals] because it was not just on one property.

D. Noble stated that the RI report details where USACE investigated, what was found, the amounts of contaminated soil found and removed, and contaminated debris found and removed. Unfortunately, because the project has been going on for so long, there are parts of the RI report that refer the reader to other documents that summarize some of that information.

M. Miller asked if she would be able to show USACE where the bunkers were, and if USACE has the scientific equipment to investigate them.

D. Noble explained he does not know since he does not know what the circumstances or details of the site being discussed are. USACE does not have crews readily available to go out to sites that people identify. If there are comments and concerns that community members would like USACE to address in writing, the public comment period is the time to do so.

Comment from John Wheeler, Community Member – People have been raising concerns about financial loss because of health impacts. That is outside of the FUDS and CERCLA process. There may be a cause of action but they would need to consult an attorney and make it an action against the United States government.

S. Bayh noted she does not believe that there is a high chance of bringing a lawsuit against the government. I think, as a citizen and a homeowner, that there are things that the RAB should consider for homeowners. Homeowners do not pay real estate tax if we do not sell; the District of Columbia is going to lose money. These homes are going to be vacant; people can come in and steal things.

Question from Ginny Durrin, Audience Member – By law, do FUDS have to follow the CERCLA process? USACE explained the CERCLA process to the public for the first time for the 4825 Glenbrook Road property.

D. Noble confirmed they have to follow the CERCLA process.

J. Wheeler noted that Spring Valley has been following the CERCLA process since before 4825 Glenbrook Road.

III. Community Items

No Community Items were presented.

IV. Open Discussion and Agenda Development

A. Upcoming Meeting Topics

- 4825 Glenbrook Road Health Consultation Update (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)).
- Inquire about inviting a Real Estate professional to answer real estate questions related to sale of homes in Spring Valley.
- Contacting local politicians to obtain more money for the Spring Valley project in order to speed the CERCLA and remediation process.

B. Next Meetings:

Community Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2015

RAB Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2015

C. Open Discussion

M. Douglas stated that in regards to the health studies, the RAB has made a good faith effort to try to do what they can do with additional funding and the DC health department. There is also an ATSDR study that is being prepared.

D. Noble confirmed that there have been ATSDR studies over the years. The next one will just look at the 4825 Glenbrook Road property.

T. Smith added that the issue of land use dealing with properties that have not been accessible for investigation to-date, but may become accessible in the future might be an interesting discussion for a future RAB meeting.

V. Public Comments

D. Noble thanked everyone for attending.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.