The Corps 'pondent

A newsletter by the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for
Spring Valley Project area residents

Groundwater Remedial Investigation being finalized

We are continuing to work with our regulatory Partners, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and our own internal reviewing authorities within the Army, to finalize the Draft Groundwater Remedial Investigation report (RI) for the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site.

The RI compiles all the data gathered from the groundwater monitoring that took place from 2005 to 2015. The purpose of the RI is to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination and assess any potential risks to human health and the environment.

It is important to note the groundwater in the Spring Valley neighborhood is not used as a source for drinking. However, if groundwater specifically around the south campus area of American University and Glenbrook Road were to be used for drinking in the future there would be unacceptable risk.

As such, the Corps of Engineers is planning to move forward with a Groundwater Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives to address the risk associated with the potential use of groundwater as a drinking water source in that area.

We anticipate finalizing the Groundwater RI by the end of the year and moving on to the Groundwater Feasibility Study.

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Proposed Plan comment period extended, Decision Document being prepared with Partners

The Corps of Engineers received several comments during the original public comment period on the Site-Wide Proposed Plan, and have granted a request to extend the comment period until September 28, 2016.

We are continuing to work with our regulatory Partners, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), along with the project's independent technical consultant advising the Restoration Advisory Board, to prepare the Site-Wide Decision Document.

The Decision Document is based on the Proposed Plan, modified if necessary by comments received from the public, and it formally identifies the remedial alternatives selected.

It will include a Responsiveness Summary that will address all the public comments submitted. This includes comments submitted at the July 14, 2016 public information session held at American University, as well as comments sent via letters and e-mail.

Once completed, a printed copy of

(See Decision Document on page 2)

Pilot Project field work underway

One of the Advanced Classification technologies being used to map the subsurface of a property in Spring Valley as part of ongoing Pilot Project field work.

In August, our crews began the planned Pilot Project at three selected residential properties. We are evaluating the suitability of using newly developed "Advanced Classification" (AC) geophysical equipment within the Spring Valley residential area, to detect and recognize munition and explosives of concern (MEC) related items.

The results of the Pilot Project will determine to what extent, if any, the AC technology will be used during the upcoming remedial work to remove potential explosive hazards in the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site. If the Pilot Project results show the AC technology is not effective at residential properties, then the Army Corps will continue to rely on traditional digital geophysical mapping methods that were used during the Remedial Investigation phase.

Our Outreach Team works closely with each property owner throughout every step of the process. This is a priority throughout all site work in the Spring Valley FUDS.

A professional arborist was hired to assess the entire landscape at each participating property. Next, we discussed these landscape appraisals with each homeowner to reach consensus and approval to move forward.

Work began in early August, with the field team carefully removing or transplanting plants at each property, per our agreement with the homeowners. Transplanting plants is where select plants are carefully removed and cared for while work on a property is done, so the plants can be returned to their original location.

The team also buried "blind seeds" on the properties to support the geophysical Pilot Project. These blind

(See Pilot Project on page 2)

(Decision Document continued from page 1)

the Decision Document will be available at the Project's Information Repository at the Tenley-Friendship Branch Library. Also, an electronic copy will be sent to all those on our stakeholder email list, and placed on our project website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/SpringValley

In summary, the Army's two preferred cleanup alternatives are:

- To mitigate unacceptable risks posed by chemical contamination in soil identified at specific locations within two areas (the Spaulding-Captain Rankin Area and the southern portion of American University) – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Contaminated Soil
- And to mitigate unacceptable explosive hazards due to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) that may remain within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) - Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) of Accessible Areas, and Remove Selected Anomalies

For clarification, the Corps of Engineers has reached out directly to all the affected property owners on multiple occasions during the past year, whose property was identified for further remedial action in the Site-Wide Proposed Plan.

For more information regarding the Army's preferred alternatives and how they were selected, and how to submit public comments, visit the Proposed Plan section of the Spring Valley project website:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/home/SpringValley/ProposedPlan

If you have any questions about proposed cleanup activities, you are invited to contact our Community Outreach Team at 410-962-2210

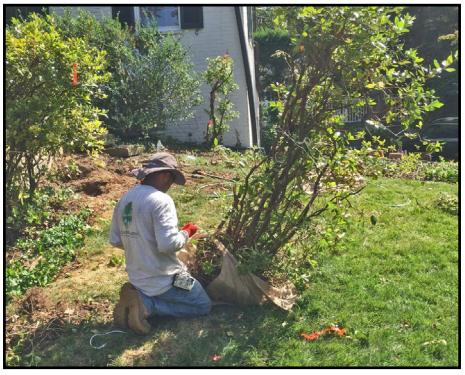
The next step, after the Decision Document is finalized, is completing the Remedial Design, where details of carrying out the selected remedial alternatives are developed with a contractor. This is expected to be underway in early 2017.

(Pilot Project continued from page 1)

seeds are the shells of old munitions, so they resemble munitions but are completely inert and pose no explosive or hazardous characteristics. They are key to helping the Army Corps determine how effective the new geophysical technology is at identifying buried munitions in residential settings. These blind seeds will be removed during the intrusive (hand digging) phase.

With the necessary plants removed from the property and the blind seeds installed, the team began collecting the geophysical data with the new equipment. From mid to late August the team spent approximately five days on each property.

This work was conducted in two stages, due to the types of data they needed to collect. They tested both instruments to see how well they determined the exact metallic anomalies to remove.



A plant removed from a property to allow for investigatory work is carefully packaged for transplanting, which is a method of storing and caring for plants so they can be returned to a property once on-site work is done.

In early September, data from the field will be analyzed. Then, after further coordination with each of the property owners, hand digging of the identified anomalies, using the geophysical data, will begin.

Once the anomaly investigation is complete, the team will perform a post-investigation site walk-through and begin planning the restoration work.

Public safety is the Army Corps' number one priority, and removal actions will be carried out only using proven methods. After the Pilot Project fieldwork is completed this summer, the team will write a final report outlining the findings of the Pilot Project. This report is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. The findings of the report will be incorporated into the Site-Wide Remedial Design, which will provide the outline for removal actions recommended by the Proposed Plan.

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To be added to our email list please email Rebecca Yahiel with the Community Outreach Team at rebecca.e.yahiel@usace.army.mil.

Spring Valley Website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley

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Crews worked over the summer to break down the various structures associated with high probability operations at 4825 Glenbrook Road, including the Engineering Control Structure, seen being taken apart in the photo on the left taken July 12, 2016. Further progress in disassembling and removing the ECS and other structures at the site can be seen in the photo on the right taken July 25, 2016. The next phase of work will be low probability operations, which are expected to go from this fall through spring 2017. Low probability operations will be followed by site restoration and return of the property to the property owner.

4825 Glenbrook Road cleanup transitions to the final phase this fall

High probability operations under the large tent at the site were completed six months ahead of schedule, at the end of May 2016. The Army Corps originally anticipated the high probability operations under Tent 3 would take one year with an estimated completion date in winter 2016/2017, but with the exception of small amounts of glass debris, no WWI American University Experiment Station (AUES)-related items were recovered under Tent 3 - allowing crews to work through the third phase of high probability operations faster than originally anticipated.

The completion of work under Tent 3 and the completion of high probability operations means that the entire structure of the house formerly located at 4825 Glenbrook Road has now been completely removed, including the basement floor and foundation.

Now that high probability operations are complete, the Army Corps has spent most of the summer demobilizing the high probability engineering controls at the 4825 Glenbrook Road project site. We anticipate resuming low probability operations at the site this month, September 2016.

Low probability operations will include remedial action in previously identified areas of potential concern for soil contamination, stemming from past AUES activities. For clarification, low probability means, based on investigatory work, that there is a lower probability of encountering AUES-related items during excavation, but that does not mean it is not possible.

Crews will continue to follow strict safety protocols while excavating on site. Extensive air monitoring will continue to be conducted as we perform our operations. We will be using miniature continuous air monitoring system (MINICAMS) and depot area air monitoring systems (DAAMS) for confirmation of MINICAMS detections, as well as electrochemical detectors and a calibrated photoionization detector (PID) in order to monitor for a full spectrum of contaminants that could potentially be encountered. Also, area air monitoring using DAAMS tubes will be implemented at the work area perimeter as well at the low probability excavation area.

Should AUES-related items be encountered during low probability operations, intrusive work on the site will be stopped and the trained personnel on the scene will follow the Low Probability Contingency Plan, as outlined in the finalized 4825 Work Plan, which includes taking all necessary steps to mitigate any hazards to the nearby residents and community.

Low probability operations are scheduled to continue into spring 2017. They will be followed by the restoration phase at the site. Once restoration is complete, the remedy to restore the site to residential standards will be complete and the property will be returned to the owner.

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Did You Know?

The investigation and cleanup of arsenic soil contamination in the Spring Valley FUDS has been completed.

Over the years since the initial discovery of buried munitions in the Spring Valley neighborhood in 1993, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our regulatory Partners have worked through various investigations and cleanup actions, accomplishing a great deal throughout the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site to reduce health and safety risks that may have stemmed from past Army activity.

One of those accomplishments has been the investigation and remediation of arsenic contamination from properties throughout the Spring Valley FUDS.

Photos showing the arsenic removal work completed at a residence in Spring Valley in 2008 and the same property after it was restored following the removal action.

In response to significant community concerns regarding possible soil contamination, USACE, in partnership with EPA and DOEE, developed a comprehensive plan to conduct arsenic soil sampling on every property within the SVFUDS.

In all, approximately 1,632 properties and lots were investigated and 180 properties and lots were identified as needing some level of arsenic removal.

Cleanup and restoration at the 180 sites was accomplished through close coordination with property owners, over the course of roughly 14 years, from 2002 to 2016. Thank you to all those who participated in the completion of this successful operation.