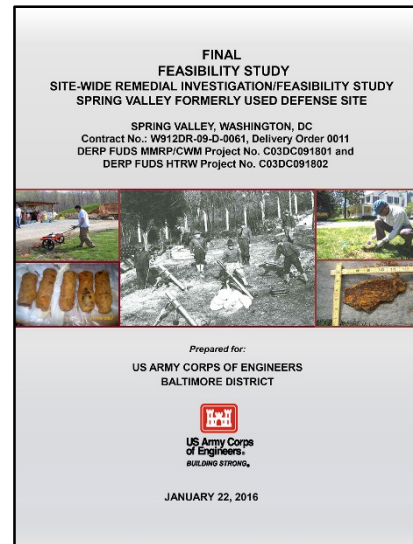


Site-Wide Feasibility Study Report Summary and Next Steps

Overview:

The Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of approximately 661 acres in Northwest Washington, D.C. During the World War I-era, the site was known as the American University Experiment Station (AUES) and Camp Leach. It was used by the U.S. government for engineer troop training, research and testing of chemical agents, equipment, and munitions. Between 1993 and 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed initial investigations to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of known contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment, and establish criteria for possible cleanup actions associated with past Department of Defense (DoD) activities. During the initial investigations, the Corps of Engineers also removed munitions related items and arsenic contaminated soil.

Due to the location of the FUDS in a suburban community and the nature of the early burial pit findings, the Corps of Engineers took a multi-pronged approach to investigate previously identified areas while concurrently analyzing historical records to plan investigations in additional areas.



*The Final Feasibility Study
Report for Spring Valley was
released in January 2016*

What is the Feasibility Study (FS) Report?

The purpose of the FS is to develop, screen, and provide a detailed analysis of remedial alternatives to mitigate: 1) unacceptable risks posed by soil contamination resulting from chemicals of concern (COCs), and 2) potential unacceptable explosive hazards due to munitions and explosives of concern that may remain within the Spring Valley FUDS. The FS is based on information, site characterization, and determination of potential risks or hazards to human health which is contained in the Remedial Investigation.

What was Evaluated?

Four remedial alternatives were identified to mitigate the unacceptable risks posed by soil contamination:

- Alternative 1: No Further Action
- Alternative 2: Land Use Controls (LUCs)
- Alternative 3: Phytoremediation
- Alternative 4: Excavation and Off-site Disposal

These were screened against effectiveness, implementability, and cost.

Six remedial alternatives were identified to mitigate the potential unacceptable explosive hazards that may remain:

- Alternative 1: No Further Action
- Alternative 2: Land Use Controls (LUCs)
- Alternative 3: Full Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) Coverage, Remove All Anomalies
- Alternative 4: Full DGM Coverage, Remove Selected Anomalies
- Alternative 5: DGM of Accessible Areas, Remove All Anomalies
- Alternative 6: DGM of Accessible Areas, Remove Selected Anomalies

These were also screened against effectiveness, implementability, and cost.

What are the conclusions of the FS?

Contaminated Soil Remedial Alternatives

Based on the detailed analysis of contaminated soil remedial alternatives in the Feasibility Study, Alternative 4, “Excavation and Off-site Disposal,” is the most favorable remedial alternative to achieve the Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs), but final selection of a preferred alternative will be proposed and documented in the forthcoming Proposed Plan.

While Alternative 3, “Phytoremediation,” is initially less costly than Alternative 4, the unknowns associated with it render the costing criterion only slightly more favorable than Alternative 4. Alternative 4 will meet the RAOs in the shortest time, with the fewest unknowns. It will address all chemicals of concern under all site-specific conditions and it has been successfully conducted many times throughout Spring Valley site.

Explosive Hazards Remedial Alternatives

Based on the detailed analysis of remaining explosive hazards remedial alternatives for the areas of focus, Alternative 6, “Digital Geophysical Mapping of Accessible Areas, Remove Selected Anomalies,” is the most favorable remedial alternative to achieve the RAOs, but final selection of a preferred alternative will be proposed and documented in the forthcoming Proposed Plan. On an individual property basis, Alternative 6 is the least costly of the four alternatives. Alternative 6 is protective of human health and the environment, is compliant with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, and will meet the RAOs in the shortest time period.

What’s Next?

The next step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process now that the Feasibility Study has been finalized will be for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to compose a Draft Final Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan formally presents the Army's preferred alternatives as a result of the Feasibility Study analysis. A formal public comment period will be held to allow the community an opportunity to review and comment on the Proposed Plan before it is finalized.

Where can I learn more?

The Site-Wide Feasibility Study and Remedial Investigation reports are posted on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Spring Valley website: www.nab.usace.army.mil/RIFS

Additional fact sheets, project information and information regarding the CERCLA process — the regulatory process followed for the Spring Valley FUDS — are also available on the website. To learn more, please call our Community Outreach Office at 410-962-2210.