



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

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

September 2013 ~ Vol. 14, No. 3

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley>

The Corps' mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.

Corps enters next phase at 4825 Glenbrook Road

On September 23, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started excavating the high probability areas at 4825 Glenbrook Road. These are the areas of the property where historical information and field data indicate there is a likelihood of American University Experiment Station (AUES) debris and/or glassware items being present. With that in mind, the Remedial Action Work Plan, Public Protection Plan and Chemical Safety Submission have guided the placement of multiple layers of protection to prevent a chemical release from occurring and to keep the workers and the residents of the community safe throughout the duration of the project.

These layers of protection include the use of video monitoring, real time/near real time air monitoring, three chemical agent filtration systems, (CAFS, see on map) an Engineering Control Structure, (a 60' x 80' x 27' tent that will be under negative pressure), as well as up-front coordination with emergency responders and a well-trained, experienced work force.

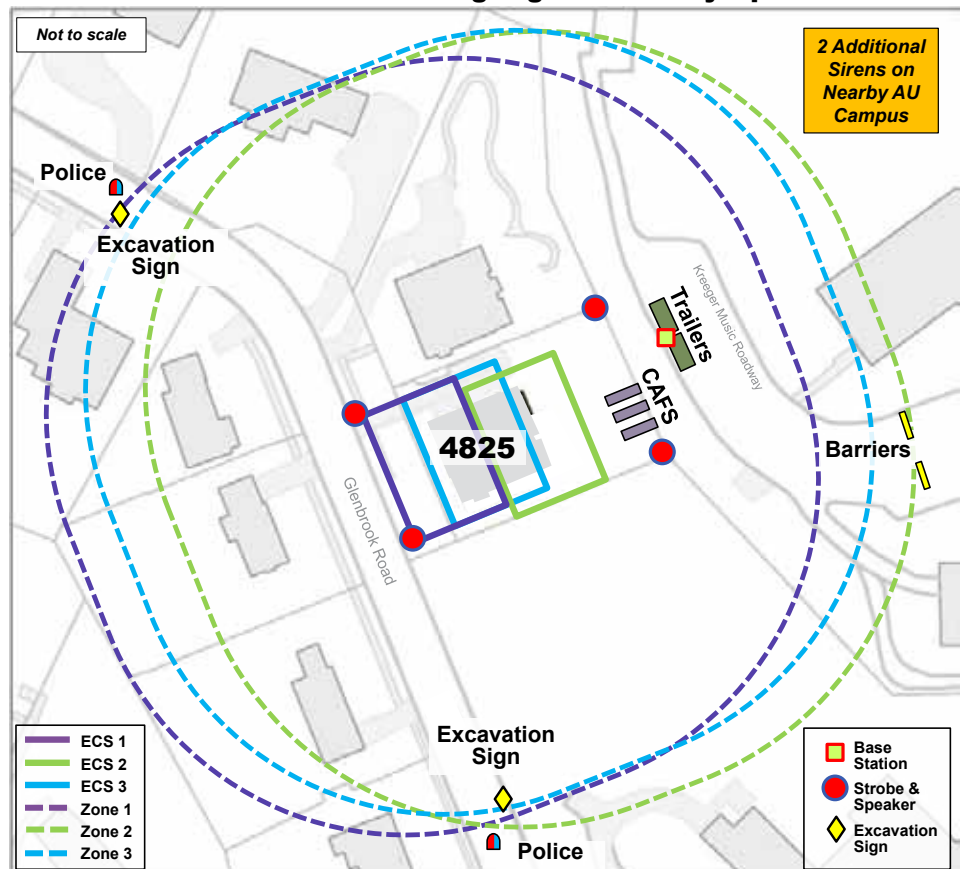
Additionally, the Corps of Engineers established a Shelter-in-Place program. It was developed as a final protective measure should all other protective measures fail at the same time that there is a chemical release. Prior to

starting high probability operations, the site crew completed the installation of the shelter-in-place emergency alert siren system in accordance with the Public Protection Plan.

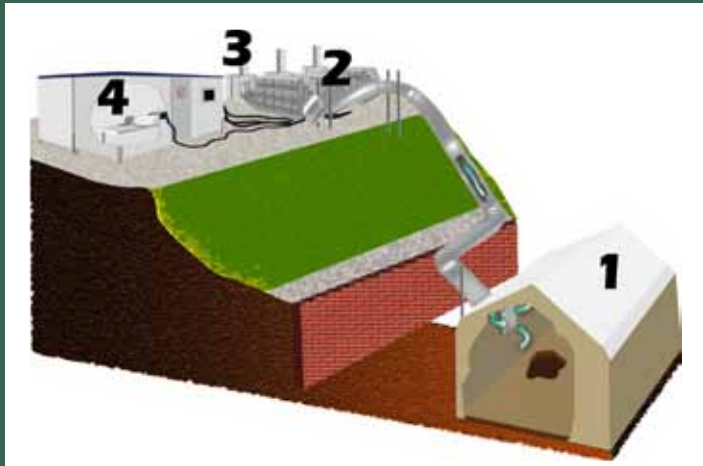
The purpose of the shelter-in-place emergency alert system is to notify the eight neighboring homes, American University, and passersby in the Shelter-in-Place zone in the unlikely event of a chemical release, so that they can shelter-in-place or quickly move outside of the zone. The Site Operations Officer at the project site will initiate the alert system. The simultaneous activation of the sirens as well as a series of messages (telephone, text, and email) that are sent out to the residents in the eight homes surrounding the

See Glenbrook on page 3

Shelter-In-Place Zones During High Probability Operations



The first scheduled Engineering Control Structure (ECS) location (purple) is in the front yard towards Glenbrook road. Then the ECS moves towards the backyard and Kreeger Music Roadway (green).



Engineering Safety

As used in previous operations at this site, the physical protective measures will include real time/ near real time air monitoring, an Engineering Control Structure (ECS), and three Chemical Agent Filtration Systems (CAFS) with the ECS under negative pressure.

1. Engineering Control Structure (ECS)

The ECS is a large (60' x 80' x 27') tent under which high probability operations will be performed. The air inside will be filtered by the CAFS at a greater rate than outside air can flow into the tent, which will cause the ECS to be under negative pressure. This negative pressure or a constant flow of air from outside the ECS to inside the ECS at all entry points, ensures that no chemical vapor released inside the ECS is able to escape the ECS - the only way out is through the CAFS filters. Therefore only clean air reaches the atmosphere.



2. Chemical Agent Filtration System (CAFS)

The CAFS provides ventilation to the ECS during operations. The system contains a pre-filter, High Efficiency Particulate Filter (HEPA), dual bed carbon filters and a secondary HEPA filter that provides air exchanges and hazardous chemical vapor removal from the ECS prior to vapor release to the environment.



3. CAFS Sound Suppression

Recognizing that the project site is in a residential area, with residents remaining in their home during our operation hours, a noise study was conducted to evaluate noise levels from the CAFS units and the emergency generators. The USACE project team identified noise control measures to reduce the noise levels to the adjacent properties. The primary goal was to reduce levels to be at or below the Washington, D.C. regulatory limit of 55 a-weighted decibels (dBA). The team was successful in achieving this goal.



4. MiniCAMS (Continuous Air Monitoring System)

The MiniCAMS is a gas chromatograph equipped with a halogen specific detector and a pre-concentrator tube. The pre-concentrator tube is a small tube containing an adsorbent material to scrub out agent vapors contained in a sample of air drawn through it for a set period of time. The tube is then heated to de-absorb the agent and introduce it into the gas chromatograph column and subsequently the detector. By pre-concentrating the agent, the detection limit is lowered. The MiniCAMS software calculates the amount of agent detected over the sampling period.



Glenbrook con't from page 1

work site, as well as other key personnel, including key American University staff. Participants will receive a message asking that they shelter-in-place until an "all-clear" notice is sent to them. Additionally, the D.C. Metropolitan Police will mobilize immediately to keep walkers and automobile traffic outside of the zone. They will be re-directing passing cars and pedestrians to take an alternate route for the duration of the emergency. Once the project team has resolved the emergency by

removing the potential hazard, the "all clear" messages will be sent out to all those involved.

All of the neighbors, whose homes are in the shelter-in-place zone, have been trained for an emergency scenario. Since the risk of a chemical release is extremely low, participation in the Shelter-in-Place program is voluntary. In the almost 21 year history of the Spring Valley Project, a Shelter-in-place alert has never needed to be initiated.



USACE's project manager Brenda Barber guides Glenbrook Road neighbors and RAB members on a tour of the project area.

The Corps of Engineers conducted a successful test of the Shelter-in-Place notification system on Sept. 4. The sirens were exercised, and the ring-down system was used to notify the residents with a test message. This allowed the Corps to troubleshoot the system before starting the effort on September 23. The Corps of Engineers will continue to test the system on the first Wednesday of every month at 4:05 pm. This is only a test to verify the system is working and remind nearby residents about the Shelter-in-Place program.

To learn more about the work, please watch this virtual tour: <http://tinyurl.com/tour4825>

Spring Valley Community Relations Plan Update

The Community Relations Plan for the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is a working document and was initially drafted in 1998. It is currently being updated, and a series of interviews with various community stakeholders are underway to support the effort. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that community members are provided opportunities to be continuously informed about and to be involved in the environmental restoration process. The plan identifies community concerns regarding environmental cleanup activities in the Spring Valley FUDS; describes ways in which the Army Corps of Engineers will provide information to residents and interested stakeholder groups; and outlines methods for the public to voice concerns and provide feedback to the Corps of Engineers.

Over the past couple of months, the Spring Valley Community Outreach team has worked to include current community interviews as a tool to gather opinions and feedback. The discussions have focused on the

stakeholders' experiences with Spring Valley FUDS project as a whole, as well as on which outreach tools are working well, and on new ideas which may improve our efforts to inform and engage current stakeholders. The Community Outreach team is in the process of completing these informal discussions with a variety of community members and will be including the feedback in the updated Spring Valley FUDS Community Relations Plan later this fall. The plan also has an expanded historical background information section on the Spring Valley FUDS and all the environmental investigations at the FUDS to date, which many stakeholders will find informative. The updated document will be available at the Tenley-Friendship Library and on the Spring Valley FUDS project website when completed. The Spring Valley Project team is grateful to all the stakeholders who participated in this effort, providing helpful feedback and new ideas.

The Corps'pondent

The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660, Spring Valley Information Line: (800) 434-0988. It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 2,200. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Project web site: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/SpringValley>

Baltimore Commander & District Engineer Col. Trey Jordan
Project Managers Dan Noble, Brenda Barber and Todd Beckwith
Public Affairs Specialist Andrea Takash



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Groundwater Monitoring Update

The next 2013 sampling event for the semi-annual monitoring program, which includes the monitoring of 20 specific existing wells and 10 surface water locations for arsenic and perchlorate, will take place later this fall.

Additionally the Corps of Engineers field team is scheduled to install two new deep sampling wells; the one on Sibley Hospital property will be approximately 125' deep; and the other on Rockwood Parkway will be approximately 200' deep. The purpose of these two new wells is to obtain additional information on the extent of perchlorate and arsenic in deep groundwater. As a reminder, groundwater in the area is not used as a drinking water source. Both wells will be designed to further evaluate if there is contamination in these areas, and if so, at what depths. Prior to the installation of these new wells, the Army Corps will provide more detailed information to residents and hospital officials about the schedule and traffic guidance.

Note: The Army Corps will discuss the April and July sampling results with the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board members at the November 12 meeting. This meeting is open to the public.

*The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
now meets every other month.*

Last 2013 RAB Meeting

November 12 at 7:00pm



*Mary Fox from Johns Hopkins University will be
briefing the RAB on the updated Health Study*

at

**St. David's Episcopal Church
at 5150 Macomb Street NW.**

The first RAB meeting of 2014
will be Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7:00 pm.