



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

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<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.

Making headway at 4825 Glenbrook Road



Construction of the Engineering Control Structure

Preparing the 4825 Glenbrook Road property for the coming high probability investigation is a step-by-step operation. In late April, our contractors relocated and re-established the sewer line and the water line. Crews also prepared the site for the installation of the soldier piles and engineering controls. From April 29th to May 8th, the crews augered holes in the ground for the installation of the soldier piles. A soldier pile (similar to sheet pile) is an engineered wall that will provide protection to the workers by holding back the soils during high probability excavation. Approximately 25 holes were augered for the installation

of the I-beams for the soldier pile. This method of excavation protection is similar to systems used at large scale construction sites.

During late May and June, the equipment for the engineering controls arrived on site. Next the **Chemical Agent Filtration Systems (CAFS)** and the **Engineering Control Structure (ECS)** were installed to support the location of the first of three excavations that will take place beginning in late September. In July, the ECS structure, which looks like a large barn-shaped tent, was constructed to fully enclose this first excavation area. It will be moved two additional times to encompass all the high probability work areas on the property. The ECS is specially engineered and sized to work with the CAFS at this specific site. The CAFS keeps the ECS under negative pressure by continuously pulling, filtering, and cleaning all the air leaving the control structure. Combined, the ECS and the CAFS are designed to control and contain any potential chemical release that may occur as site workers perform the intrusive operations.



CAFS (foreground) installed with noise abatement at each unit, and the finished ECS (background).

Shelter-in-Place zone and alert system to be set up

As part of our multiple layers of protection for the community near the project site, USACE has designed a public protection plan that includes a neighborhood emergency alert system. The system components will be installed by the end of August. This system was developed in partnership with American University (the property owner) and the eight households identified to be in the Shelter-in-Place zone. For those few Glenbrook Road neighbors involved in the Shelter-in-Place program, USACE will be doing a monthly reminder starting in September, including an alert system test on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 4:05 p.m., and the first Wednesday of every month during high probability operations.



Scheduled to begin: *Safety Inspections, Pre-Operational Surveys, Tabletop Exercise, and Emergency Preparedness Drills*

Prior to the start of the high probability excavation, USACE Baltimore will be conducting a series of safety inspections. In August and September, a Tabletop Exercise and two Pre-Operational Surveys will take place with representatives from local emergency response agencies and the Department of the Army. Even though USACE has conducted similar operations at this site over the past several years, each operation is unique and so our safety preparations and procedures need to be fully examined and practiced each time. The Tabletop Exercise and Pre-Op Exercises will review various emergency scenarios for the high probability operation.

Site Safety Training

Each supervisor engaged in the site work has specialized training on managing such operations, and many years of field experience. All of our site personnel that will be working during the high probability operations are fully trained and certified for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Their training includes procedures for evaluation and disposal of unexploded ordnance/munitions and explosives of concern. In addition to a medical surveillance program, all personnel receive ‘refresher’ chemical warfare materiel training, which included methods of detecting a chemical release, emergency procedures, and safe work practices. Also, everyone participates in site-specific training to ensure thorough

understanding of the Site Safety and Health Plan and the physical and safety hazards of this site. The plan is available for public review on the project website and at the Tenley-Friendship Branch Library.

Tabletop Exercise

The purpose of the Tabletop Exercise is to evaluate emergency plans and procedures and to resolve questions of coordination and assignment of responsibility. The Tabletop Exercise will include discussion of various simulated emergency situations in a non-threatening format. All District of Columbia and site emergency response personnel will be given the opportunity to participate in a Tabletop Exercise and Pre-Op exercise to test the efficiency of the Site-Specific Public Protection Plan and evaluate operational readiness.

Pre-Operation Survey

The Pre-Operational Survey performed by the Department of the Army Safety Office evaluates the operational procedures and all aspects of the intrusive activities. Each procedure is assessed for operational readiness through the demonstration of various scenarios. Procedures include the review of pertinent documents, inspection of equipment and facilities, verification of employee training and procedures, and witnessing of selected system testing and operations.



Previous Spring Valley Training, Pre-Op Exercises, and RAB Tour

75mm munitions empty debris item
(May 7, 2013)



Small pieces of assorted WWI lab glassware
(findings started May 15, 2013)



Sealed test tube of crystallized CN (tear gas, not a chemical agent)
(May 21, 2013)



Empty, intact, closed cavity item (pipe)
(June 5, 2013)



Debris items carefully recovered at 4825 Glenbrook Road

The site operations team found American University Experiment Station debris while performing the initial low probability operations behind the retaining wall in the backyard. The items included a 75mm munitions debris item, a sealed test tube, an empty pipe container, and small pieces of WWI lab glassware.

Each time items were recovered, work at the site was stopped and our safety protocols were put in place. At no time were the workers or the community at any risk. We conducted air monitoring during these operations and there were no detections for chemical agents throughout site preparation efforts. The USACE project team was in constant contact with the site crews and our safety specialists, and once the items were officially examined and determined to be non-hazardous, work continued and was successfully completed under our low probability safety protocols.

Schedule Update - Furlough Impacts

The high probability excavation work is now anticipated to begin the week of Sept. 23, 2013.

The Department of Defense recently published its furlough implementation guidance that directs the military departments to start furloughing their civilian work force. The furlough period began the week of July 8 and will continue for 11 weeks. With very limited exceptions, the majority of civilians will be constrained to four days of work per week for a total of 32 hours, with no overtime authorized. Given this guidance and with safety for our workers and the community as our number one priority, Col. Trey Jordan, Baltimore District commander and District Engineer, decided to delay the start of the high probability work at 4825 Glenbrook Road during the proposed furlough period which is scheduled to end on Sept. 21, 2013.

Given the furlough work restrictions, it is not possible for the Army to maintain the response capability required for the safety of operations. As such, the start of the high probability operations will be delayed for

about two months. Also, if the Department of Defense shortens the furlough period, we have already adjusted our plans and are prepared to begin high probability work as soon as possible.

It is important to note that work will not halt at the site. The site crew will continue certain non-intrusive activities throughout the furlough period. Among other actions, the remaining engineering controls required for the high probability operations will be installed, the site will be actively maintained, (including providing on-site security), and the worker training required for the high probability operations will be performed. These actions should allow the high probability operations to begin as soon as furlough ends.

High probability work requires not only a 60 hour per week work schedule, but the support of a multi-agency team. For the safety of our workers and the public, these agencies must be available to respond rapidly to a variety of potential incidents (e.g., the recovery of chemical items).

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Ongoing Groundwater Monitoring

The Spring Valley Partners agreed to conduct groundwater sampling in the Spring and Fall of 2013 at twenty existing wells and ten surface water locations. At the end of April and beginning of May, the USACE field team took the needed samples for the Spring 2013 groundwater data. The Partners also agreed to quarterly monitoring of the perchlorate levels at the two monitoring points at the piezometer (shallow and deep) near Kreeger Hall at American University, and the Sibley Hospital sump.

The USACE field team performed this quarterly sampling in July on the AU campus, and at the Sibley Hospital sump. USACE will review the results from these rounds of groundwater sampling with the regulatory partners in August, and with the RAB in November.



Sampling at the Sibley Hospital sump on July 24, 2013

RAB Schedule Change

The Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has decided to meet every other month.

See the revised schedule below.

2013 Meeting Schedule:

September 10th at 7:30pm*

November 12th at 7:00pm

at

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

*(*NOTE: the Sept. 10th meeting will begin at 7:30pm)*

The Corps will continue our outreach efforts to keep everyone informed. These include mailed copies of this Corps'pondent newsletter to all Spring Valley Project area residents, as well as providing our most interested stakeholders an electronic monthly project-wide progress summary, and the weekly Glenbrook Road neighbors update. The Glenbrook Road neighborhood updates are drafted every Friday, and copies of each of these information resources are posted to our website as soon as they are available.