

Meeting Notes

Subject	Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade – Monthly Public Construction Meeting
Date	December 21, 2016
Time	11:00 AM
Location	Portsmouth, NH

A public meeting was held at 11:00 AM on December 21, 2016 at Portsmouth City Hall for the subject contract. A record of the discussion follows:

Don Song, Wastewater Project Manager, gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the topics of discussion, including work completed so far, work anticipated in the next 6 months, construction details, events and recreation, and public input.

Following the introduction, the members of the Project Team that attended the meeting introduced themselves, and included:

- Don Song, Wastewater Project Manager
- Terry Desmarais, City Engineer
- Erik Meserve, AECOM Project Engineer
- Bob Dahlinghaus, AECOM Resident Representative
- Andy Brodeur, Methuen Construction Superintendent

Don Song noted that to obtain information regarding the project there is a project website that can be accessed through www.portsmouthwastewater.com. The website is updated weekly with news and recreational information and has a reporting form that can be used to provide feedback or notify the town of any issues.

Erik Meserve discussed the work completed since the last meeting, including:

- Pavement striping at Mechanic Street and Marcy Street
- Pedestrian safety fence along Mechanic Street and Peirce Island Road
- Continued use of staging areas
- Office trailers for Contractor and Engineer
- Small building for gate attendant at site entrance
- Project sign
- Excavation at the Headworks Building
- Large diameter piping at the Headworks Building
- Rock excavation

Erik also showed some aerial photos of the site that were taken in November.

Andy Brodeur discussed the anticipated work for the next month, including:

- Phone and internet connection at the trailer complex
- Yard piping around the Headworks Building

- Headworks Building foundation
- Drilling and blasting for the Sanitary Pump Station
- Relocation of the polyethylene tanks and pumps to a temporary location
- Transfer of the site power to temporary power in order to begin work on the new electrical distribution system
- Installation of the 12" water main around the site
- Revetments to be constructed in the following order: (1) southwest corner (2) southeast corner (3) near sludge processing building
- Removal of approved trees throughout the site
- Exploratory excavation for the gravity thickener and utilities
- Excavation for the BAF building

Andy Brodeur then discussed the anticipated work for the next six months, including:

- Installation of the sanitary pump station and associated yard piping
- Continued construction of the Headworks Building and associated yard piping
- Continued construction of Gravity Thickener No. 2 and associated yard piping
- Demolition of the existing sand filter building
- Excavation and rock removal for the BAF Building
- Continued construction of revetments throughout the site
- Continued installation of the new electrical distribution system
- Set up temporary trailers for plant staff before beginning work on the Administration Building

Terry Desmarais explained a couple of construction terms that are used by the Engineer and Contractor:

- Revetment – slope stabilization using large rip rap
- Yard piping – underground piping within limits of the treatment facility fence

Andy Brodeur discussed the potential traffic impacts from the upcoming construction activities. Some planned construction activities that are anticipated to increase truck traffic to and from the site include:

- Demolition of the existing sand filter building
- Ledge removal for the BAF Building
- Construction of the BAF Building

Increased truck traffic is anticipated to occur in January and again in the spring.

Terry Desmarais noted that the Strawberry Banke traffic route has not been used yet, and is not anticipated to be used in the near future or be a problem this winter.

Erik Meserve discussed upcoming events in the City that the work will be coordinated with, including:

- Great Bay Services Race
- Fire and Ice Festival
- Strawberry Bank Events
- Prescott Park Events

To date, there have not been conflicts with City events due to construction activities.

Don Song showed an aerial video of the site taken in November.

A public question and answer session then occurred, and is summarized below:

Blair McCracken asked the following:

Q: How does this project bring the City into compliance with the EPA when there is still outflow of raw sewage into South Mill Pond?

A: This project and the discharge into South Mill Pond are regulated by two separate permits. There is one permit associated with the the discharge from the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility into the Piscataqua River, which this project addresses. The combined sewer overflows that discharge into South Mill Pond are related to the sewer collection system, and fall under a separate permit. The City has a Long Term Control Plan in place to maintain compliance with the EPA's combined sewer overflow reduction policy.

Q: When will the City stop discharge into South Mill Pond as a result of combined sewer overflows?

A: The Long Term Control plan will be updated with the next steps for reducing combined sewer overflows. Currently, the City is in compliance with the EPA's combined sewer overflow reduction policy based on the Post Construction Monitoring Plan that is being completed.

Q: What is the plan if the Peirce Island WWTF is required to upgrade to tertiary treatment?

A: The Peirce Island WWTF is being upgraded to include secondary treatment as well as nitrogen removal, which is tertiary treatment, as part of this project. Based on the existing NPDES permit for the plant, there are no requirements for tertiary treatment. However, the Consent Decree requires a nitrogen limit of 8 mg/L. The technology selected has the capacity to treat to lower limits, with no additional construction or capital costs.

Mary Krempels asked the following:

Q: Is the combined sewer overflow (CSO) reduction plan included in the \$100 million that the taxpayers are currently paying, or is the CSO reduction a separate project?

A: The Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade and CSO reduction are both part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan. There will not be another single project related to CSO removal of similar cost to the Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade. Instead, CSO reduction is a continuous project that will be funded over time.

Kathleen Boduch asked the following:

Q: Will the trucks carrying waste from the Island be covered?

A: Yes, they will be covered.

Q: Can you provide an update on the leaking pipe on the bridge to Peirce Island?

A: The leak that recently occurred was from a potable water main, not a sewer pipe.