

Meeting Notes

Subject	Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade – Monthly Public Construction Meeting
Date	January 15, 2020
Time	11:00 AM
Location	Portsmouth, NH

A public meeting was held at 11:00 AM on January 15, 2020 in Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall for the subject project. A record of the discussion follows:

Terry Desmarais, City Engineer, gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the topics of discussion, including work completed since the last meeting, work to be completed in the coming month, work anticipated in the next six months, construction cost to date, summary of Consent Decree milestones, events and recreation, and public input.

The members of the Project Team in attendance introduced themselves, and included:

- Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
- Terry Desmarais, City Engineer
- Jon Pearson, AECOM Project Manager
- Andy Brodeur, Methuen Construction, Project Manager

Terry noted that to obtain additional information regarding the project, there is a project website that can be accessed through www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wastewater/peirce-island-wastewater-facility/peirce-island-wastewater-facility-upgrade-project. The website is updated weekly with news and recreational information and contains a link to a reporting form that can be used to provide feedback or notify the City of any issues associated with the project. Terry Desmarais, City Engineer, is the point of contact for the City.

Jon discussed work that has been completed this month. He noted areas where work is ongoing at the site, including:

- Grit Building
- Solids Building
- Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) Building
- Gravity Thickener No. 2
- Existing Sludge Processing / New Operations/Lab Building
- Chlorine Contact Tanks

Jon reviewed photos of construction progress, including:

- Site Overview – Existing conditions of the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility in November 2016. Prior to construction, the treatment process consisted of the Aerated Grit Chambers, followed by the Primary Clarifiers and Chlorine Contact Tanks.
- BAF Building – This past month the BAF Building was determined to have met the Consent Decree BAF Substantial Completion Milestone. The BAF system is now receiving wastewater flow and biomass development has started. As the BAF is a highly automated system, work to program the computer logic which operates the BAF is extensive and in progress. Minor electrical finish work is being completed. Work to install the stairs and hand railings is in progress. Other finish work such as installing piping insulation and painting is in progress.
- Solids Building – The solids handling process within the Solids Building is in operation and the WWTF staff are currently using the system to dewater sludge. Finish work such as installing door hardware and exterior stair railings is in progress and near completion. Work to wire instrumentation and monitoring equipment at the Primary Clarifiers to the Remote I/O Panel in the Solids Building is underway.
- Existing Sludge Processing Building/New Operations/Lab Building – The first floor of the building has been demolished and PCB abatement is nearing completion. All demolished materials are being placed into dumpsters which are then covered for subsequent removal. Selective mechanical demolition is underway. Structural work has begun in the lower level of the building so that it can be converted from its previous use as a Sludge Processing Building to its new use as the Operations/Lab Building. Old piping has been removed from the building and new piping is now being installed.
- Chlorine Contact Tanks – Work to modify the existing Chlorine Contact Tanks is underway, this includes but is not limited to concrete wall and slab modifications/repairs and the installation of a new concrete slab. In addition to the concrete work, there are also mechanical piping modifications being completed. Work on the Chlorine Contact Tanks is typically done during periods of low flow so that flow can be diverted to one of the tanks and the second tank is taken out of service so that work can continue in the offline tank.
- Gravity Thickener No. 2 – Installation of the gravity thickener mechanism and piping is continuing. Installation of instrumentation and control equipment is also underway. Heat tracing and insulation of the exterior piping is being completed so that the structure can be backfilled.

Andy discussed work anticipated for the coming month, including:

- Continue minor finish work in the Headworks Building.
- Continue architectural, structural, mechanical process, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical construction in the Grit Building.
- Continue minor finish mechanical and electrical work in the BAF Building.
- Complete remaining minor installation work for stairs, railings and ladders in the BAF Building.
- Continue startup of BAF Building process and place the BAF in service.
- Continue minor interior touch up painting in the BAF Building, Solids and Grit Buildings.
- Continue integration of the BAF control system with the plant's SCADA system.
- Continue installation of the building finishes, such as door hardware and signage in the BAF and Solids Buildings.
- Continue minor electrical, HVAC, and plumbing work in the Solids Building.
- Continue installation, check out, and startup of Gravity Thickener No. 2 mechanism and scum pumps.
- Continue selective demolition in the existing Sludge Processing Building and Chlorine Contact Tanks.
- Continue structural repair and modifications to the new Operations/Lab Building.

Andy then discussed the work anticipated through January and into July 2020, including:

- Grit Building – Complete minor punch-list items.
- BAF Building – Complete minor punch-list items. Complete backfilling and grading around the building and begin landscaping on the west and south sides of the building. In addition, install the cable trellis system/plantings on the west and south side of the building.
- Solids Building – Complete punch-list items. Begin landscaping on the west side of the building.
- Existing Sludge / New Operations/Lab Building – Complete hazardous materials abatement work as well as selective demolition in the lower level. Complete installation of new floor slab, including floor slab infills, membrane layer, insulation and 4" topping slab. Complete installation of new structural steel. Complete exterior wall framing and sheeting, and weather depending, begin exterior masonry work. Complete installation of CMU walls and chemical containment curbs in the basement. Continue the installation of interior wall framing and sheeting. Begin mechanical process, electrical, HVAC and plumbing rough-in work.
- Gravity Thickener No. 2 – Complete hand railings and finishes at Gravity Thickener No. 2.
- Primary Clarifiers – Complete installation of the new primary clarifier scum pumps and scum pump station. Complete painting and installation of turnbuckles. Complete installation of grating at the Primary Clarifier Effluent Distribution box.
- Underground Piping and Utility Services – Complete installation of utility connections to the Operations/Lab Building. Construct remainder of binder course pavement at the Operations/Lab Building and install curbing. Begin installation of sidewalks, stairs and railings at the Operations/Lab Building. Final grading and landscaping activities will resume, this includes but is not limited to, grading for asphalt walkways and stone mowing strips; installation of the 12' vegetated maintenance corridor; installation of the rain garden and installation of the permanent WWTF perimeter fence.

Jon provided an update on the project construction cost:

- Original Contract: \$72.786 million
- Change Order No. 1: \$0.367 million
- Change Order No. 2: \$0.547 million
- Change Order No. 3: \$0.093 million
- Change Order No. 4: \$0.163 million
- Change Order No. 5: \$0.250 million
- Change Order No. 6: \$0.292 million
- Change Order No. 7: \$0.169 million
- Change Order No. 8: \$0.113 million
- Total Contract: \$74.780 million

Jon provided a summary of the project milestones set by the Consent Decree:

- Execute Contract for Construction Upgrades - Date: 9/1/2016 - Status: Complete
- Submit Two Additional Milestones for EPA Review and Approval - Date: 12/1/2016 - Status: Complete
- Additional Milestone 1: Transfer of the Existing SCADA system to the New Headworks Building - Date: 11/21/2017 - Status: Complete
- Additional Milestone 2: Startup and Testing of the Secondary Influent Pump Station in the New Solids Building - Date: 5/9/2019 - Status: Complete

- BAF Substantial Completion - Date: ~~42/4/2019~~ 12/31/2019 - Status: Complete
- Achieve Compliance with NPDES Permit Limits - Date: 4/1/2020 - Status: On Schedule

As noted earlier, the BAF Substantial Completion Consent Decree milestone was achieved on December 31st, 2019 in compliance with the Consent Decree schedule. Primary effluent is now flowing through the BAF cells so that biomass development can begin. It was noted that the initial December 1, 2019 date was revised by EPA to the December 31st, 2019 date.

Jon noted that the project team is continuing to coordinate construction with community events. Upcoming events this month include Strawberry Banke Events.

There were no questions from the public.

The next public construction meeting will be on February 19, 2020 at 11:00 AM in Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall.

These notes present a summary of the items discussed at the meeting and are not a transcript of the meeting.