

To: BNC East Wing Faculty
From: John Weaver
Subject: Exhaust Project Update

4 January 2013

As you are well aware, there have been a number of issues in the east wing exhaust project, resulting in delays in the project, extra shutdowns, and last-minute schedule changes. Please understand that these events have been at least as frustrating to the facility staff as they have been to you, and that we are doing everything in our power to keep this project on track and under control. We have been working very closely with Purdue University Physical Facilities (PUPF) on the project, and they have been putting a great deal of pressure on the contractor as well.

The contractor, Wilhelm, has made changes in their organization as a result of the issues, and even the subcontractors have made significant changes. Not only have some people been replaced, but there have also been additional staff added. In addition to staffing changes, the subcontractors have been working overtime – both weekends and additional weekday hours – at no cost to Purdue to make up for schedule deficiencies.

The result of these changes and additional work is that we will be bringing BRK 2087 on line about 10 days later than originally planned. We had considered this lab to be a learning experience for the contractor, and it has served that purpose. We have materials and manpower in place to make the subsequent lab projects run much more smoothly. We fully expect the remaining labs to be completed according to the revised schedule.

The major work in the penthouse has caused the bulk of the delays in the project, and problems in that area have created the additional shutdowns that you have experienced. We are now in the final stages of the startup of the new and relocated equipment, and will begin commissioning next week. While the delays in this work have been very frustrating, the new systems that will be operational soon will give us a very high level of functionality, and will carry the nano-bio work at the BNC for many years. It will be worth the frustrations that we have experienced during the project.

Over the next two weeks we will be starting up, testing, and commissioning the new exhaust and air-handling equipment. As we go through these operations, the airflow in the east-wing laboratories will be variable, resulting in temperature instabilities and room-pressure changes. It is expected that temperatures could vary as much as +/- 2 degrees F during this period and humidity could vary as much as +/- 20% relative. The testing that will cause these excursions will take place late next week, from Wednesday January 9 through Friday, January 11. Further testing may be required on Tuesday, January 15, during the final commissioning of the air handling unit.

In addition, the exhaust will be shut down on Monday, January 14, for the full day. No work in hoods may be performed during this time, and temperature instabilities in the laboratories should be expected. While users may work in the laboratories, no work may be performed in the hoods and no temperature-sensitive work should be performed.

The contractor will release BRK 2087 by the end of the day on Monday, January 14. On Tuesday, January 15, the commissioning of the laboratory will be completed, with the lab turned over to users on Wednesday morning, January 16. The next three days will be busy, with equipment moved into BRK 2087 and out of BRK 2043, the next lab to be reworked. On Friday, January 18, Lewis Testing Service will start up the biosafety cabinets, and the lab should be ready for operation by the end of the day. Since Monday is a Purdue holiday, research in the lab is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 22.

Monday, January 21 (Purdue Holiday), the contractor will begin protecting the fixtures in BRK 2043, kicking off that project. That project is scheduled for five weeks, allowing reoccupation of the laboratory on February 22.

A summary schedule for the next two weeks follows:

Wednesday-Friday, Jan 9-11: Expect temperature instabilities in East Wing labs due to AHU-2B startup and testing. The labs and hoods will be functional, but there may be temperature variations throughout the period.

Monday, Jan 14: Exhaust shutdown. Hoods may not be used, and all materials must be removed prior to 7:00 am Monday morning.

Tuesday, Jan 15: Full commissioning of BRK 2087; lab released to users by end of day.

Wednesday-Friday, Jan 16-18: Move equipment into BRK 2087; empty BRK 2043

Friday, Jan 18: Startup of biosafety cabinets in BRK 2087

Tuesday, Jan 22: BRK 2087 open for operation. **(Celebrate!)**

Thank you for your patience during this project. We are working very hard to minimize any disruptions to your research, and to give you as much advanced warning as possible. Please let me know if there are other things that I can do to assist you through this disruption.

Sincerely,

John Weaver

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