November 15, 2018

Rock Excavation Update:

Rock removal for the North Science Addition began November 8 and the contractor has successfully completed 5 controlled blasts as they work to excavate subsurface rock in preparation for the lowest levels of the new building.

Using advanced techniques, rock has been loosened using controlled blasting. The amplitude of each blast has been measured and no damage to the surrounding area has occurred. Ground vibrations have not exceeded safe limits and many on campus have felt no vibrations, while others in closer proximity may have felt some vibration. This technique has proven as safe and effective as when used previously for South Science and the Williams Inn excavations.

The rock work will continue within the confines of the North Addition construction site through January 2019. Controlled blasting had initially been projected to occur twice daily Monday through Friday between 10-11am and 2-3pm (and on rare occasions slightly outside of these hours due to weather or rock variations). However due to the success of the initial blasts, moving forward we anticipate the frequency of the blasting may decrease as the contractor is finding that they are able to extract larger quantities of rock per blast than previously projected. Please note that some percussion hammer work may be required for rock finishing.

For safety reasons, Hoxsey Street will continue to be closed for approximately 5-10 minutes with each blast and access to the area closely regulated. Sentries will be posted at various points outside of the construction zone and control access during the blast. Warning horn signals will be sounded outside prior to each blast as follows:

3 horn signals – 5 minutes to rock blast
2 horn signals – 1 minute to rock blast
1 horn signal – post rock blast “all clear”

Safety is the priority during all phases of blasting.

Impact Area: North Science Addition and surrounds
Projected Dates for Activity: November 8, 2018 – January 31, 2019

Work Activities:
- Controlled construction blasting for rock removal

Impact to Adjacencies: There may be moderate to loud noise around the North Addition site associated with blasting and excavation activities, some ground vibrations may be felt. Pedestrian and vehicular circulation around the site will, at times, be restricted and/or rerouted for safety purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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