

Meeting Notes

Subject	Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade – Monthly Public Construction Meeting
Date	August 19, 2020
Time	11:00 AM
Location	Portsmouth, NH

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) State of Emergency, the August 19, 2020 public meeting was held live at 11:00 AM over a Zoom video call. A record of the discussion follows:

Brian Goetz, Deputy Director Public Works, 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, and events and recreation.

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

- Peter Rice, Director Public Works
- Brian Goetz, Deputy Director Public Works
- Jon Pearson, AECOM Project Manager
- Andy Brodeur, Methuen Construction, Project Executive

Brian 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:

- Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) Building
- Existing Sludge Processing / New Operations/Lab Building
- Chlorine Contact Tanks
- Site Work

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.

- Site Work – Work to restore and bring the site to final grade is continuing. Construction of concrete sidewalks around the new Operations/Lab Building underway. In addition, portions of the permanent fence and site lighting are being installed.
- Existing Sludge Processing Building/New Operations/Lab Building – The last major building at the site that is under construction is the conversion of the existing Sludge Processing Building to the new Operations/Lab Building. Construction of the building envelope is continuing. With the brick work for the façade being having been completed, work to prepare the Upper Level for installation of the metal panel façade is underway. The new canopy over the main entrance has been installed and most exterior windows have been installed as well. In the interior of the building, rough in work of mechanical, electrical and plumbing piping and systems is continuing. Installation of the insulation and interior drywall is also underway. The upper level will consist of a suspended ceiling, work to install HVAC ductwork and fire protection piping above the suspended ceiling is underway. In the Lower Level, work install the new boiler and potable water system is continuing. The Lower Level also houses chemical feed systems, and installation of the chemical metering pumps and piping for these systems has begun and the protective coating for the containment areas has been applied.

Andy discussed work anticipated for the coming month, including:

- Continue minor finish work at the Headworks Building, Grit Building, Solids Building, and BAF Building.
- Continue optimization of the BAF Building process.
- Continue integration of the BAF control system with the plant's SCADA system.
- Continue installation of the new Operations/Lab Building upper level metal wall façade.
- Continue installation of exterior windows, doors and drywall at the new Operations/Lab Building
- Continue mechanical process work at the new Operations/Lab Building.
- Continue HVAC, electrical, plumbing and fire protection rough in work at the new Operations/Lab Building.
- Prepare the new Operations/Lab Building upper level for painting.
- Continue installation of chain link fence and gates.
- Continue installation of granite curb and pavement.

Andy then discussed the work anticipated through August and into February 2021 includes:

- Headworks Building – Complete minor punch-list items. Complete installation of landscaping at the Headworks Building and installation of the permanent fence.
- Grit Building – Complete minor punch-list items. Complete installation of the permanent fence.
- BAF Building – Complete minor punch-list items. Complete installation of the permanent fence.
- Solids Building – Complete punch-list items. Complete landscaping on the west side of the building. Complete installation of the permanent fence.
- Existing Sludge / New Operations/Lab Building – Complete exterior metal wall panel installation and metal coping trim for the roof. Complete installation of the finished floors and ceilings within the building. Complete installation of exterior windows, doors and overhead doors at the building. Complete installation of the exterior stairs, including the stair ramps and railings, and bollards. Complete installation of bollards at the overhead doors. Complete the installation of interior wall framing, sheeting, tiling and painting. Complete installation of mechanical process piping rough-in work and installation of equipment in the lower level, including the chemical systems. On the first floor, complete mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection rough-in work. On the first floor complete installation of laboratory case work and installation of laboratory equipment. Complete installation of all flooring and ceiling systems.

- Primary Clarifiers – Complete installation of grating at the Primary Clarifier Effluent Distribution box.
- Site Work – Install remainder of the roadway paving and complete line striping of the roadway. Complete installation of granite curbing. Complete installation of sidewalks, stairs and railings at the Operations/Lab Building. Final grading and landscaping activities will be completed, this includes but is not limited to, grading for asphalt walkways and stone mowing strips; 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
- Change Order No. 9: \$0.242 Million
- Total Contract: \$75.022 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: ~~4/2/2019~~ 12/31/2019 - Status: Complete
- Achieve Compliance with NPDES Permit Limits - Date: 4/1/2020 - Status: Complete
- Achieve Compliance with Consent Decree Total Nitrogen Limits* - Date: June 1, 2020 – Status: Complete

*Seasonal Limit: May through October

Jon provided a description of the NPDES permit limits and Consent Decree total nitrogen limits. Effluent limits for total suspended solids (TSS) and biological oxygen demand (BOD) are regulated by the NPDES permit. The monthly average limit for both constituents in the plant effluent is 30 mg/L. These limits took effect April 1st. The monthly average of effluent BOD and TSS for February – July were presented and the effluent concentrations of the two constituents were well below the limit. See the table below for a summary.

Peirce Island TSS and BOD Effluent Results

	TSS	BOD
NPDES Permit Month Average Effluent Limit (mg/L)	30	30
Recorded Monthly Average, February (mg/L)	13.3	12.8
Recorded Monthly Average, March (mg/L)	17.3	9.8
Recorded Monthly Average, April (mg/L)	11	5.7
Recorded Monthly Average, May (mg/L)	13.6	6.4
Recorded Monthly Average, June (mg/L)	28.3	10.2
Recorded Monthly Average, July (mg/L)	27.4	9.8

As a requirement of the NPDES permit, samples of the WWTF effluent are taken 2-3 times a week and the BOD and TSS concentrations documented. The average concentration of all the samples taken per month is the monthly average that is reported to the NHDES and USEPA. The City is required to submit reports on the Peirce Island WWTF monthly averages on the 15th the following month. Thus, reporting for the month of August will not be issued until September 15th.

Jon proceeded to present the effluent results for total nitrogen (TN) over the months of February – July. The Consent Decree states that the seasonal monthly average (May thru October) for total nitrogen in the effluent be 8.0 mg/L or less. The data from the past several months shows that the TN concentration is decreasing month by month which indicates that biomass necessary to accomplish nitrogen removal within the BAF is growing. The data for the month of July has been collected and it can be seen that the TN effluent concentration was below the permit limit by the Consent Decree schedule and is continuing to trend down. See the table below for a summary of TN Effluent data.

Peirce Island TN Effluent Results

	TN
Consent Decree Seasonal Monthly Average Effluent Limit (mg/L)	8
Recorded Monthly Average, February (mg/L)	17.9
Recorded Monthly Average, March (mg/L)	16.1
Recorded Monthly Average, April (mg/L)	11.6
Recorded Monthly Average, May (mg/L)	9.5
Recorded Monthly Average, June (mg/L)	6.6
Recorded Monthly Average, July (mg/L)	4.9

The project team is continuing to coordinate construction with community events, however due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) State of Emergency, there are no community events scheduled at this time.

The meeting was opened to public input and comments, however, there were no additional attendees to the live video conference. Brian noted if there are questions, they can be submitted to him or Terry Desmarais via email and responses will be provided.

The next public construction meeting will be September 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Whether the Public Meeting is held in person or via a video conference is to be determined prior to the next meeting.

These notes present a summary of the discussion that was held.