

April 5, 2017

Mr. Michael Behrendt Director of Planning and Community Development Town of Durham 8 Newmarket Road Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Re: UNH Water Treatment Plant

Dear Michael:

Facilities Campus Planning

Ritzman Laboratory 22 Colovos Road Durham, NH 03824-3515

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www.unh.edu/facilities

The University is funding and managing the design and construction of a new Water Treatment Plant to replace the existing plant. I am submitting the attached material in compliance with New Hampshire RSA 674:54 to explain the elements and construction of this project. This project, which has been included in the 2012 Campus Master Plan, is now in design with construction anticipated to start in mid-June at the earliest.

The existing water treatment plant was originally constructed in 1935 with only limited upgrades in the 1970's. At nearly 80 years old, it has outlived its useful life. Currently, the plant operates as a 1.5 million gallons/day conventional plate settling and filtration plant. The new plant will use a similar filtration system but with a capacity of 2.0 mgd. It will better handle the varied range of water characteristics of the three water sources: the Lamprey River, the Oyster River, and the underground natural holding volume known as Spruce Hole. The existing plant is within the 100 year flood plain, and the new plant will be well above the flood plain.

This \$20m project creates a new 41,800 sf facility with three settling lagoons outside to manage the organic materials that are filtered out of the water. Organic sludge from the filters will sit in a lagoon for up to one year as water settles out. The remaining material is then removed and taken off site by a third party contractor. The site for all of this is adjacent to the existing water plant but well above the 100 year flood plain.

The facility will tie into the existing water and sewer distribution system. The construction will disturb less than 8,000 sf of wetlands. The design/build team is currently processing permit applications with the NH DES for wetlands, shore lands, and alteration of terrain. The shore land scope of this project is to restore vegetation in the area were two settling lagoons currently exist. We have had meetings with DES for all of these permits and the start of construction is dependent on when the permits are issued. The earliest date possible is mid-June.

The building materials are a combination of brick and concrete block exterior. The two story gabled roof form and the composition and massing of the building are intended to fit within the context of this isolated site where the Flow Physics Facility, aka wind tunnel, and UNH Grounds and Events are located.

Attached are the most current drawings available at this time for review. I am prepared to meet with the Planning Board at their convenience, to hear comments and answer any questions they may have about this project.

Respectfully,

Douglas C. Bencks

University Architect and Director of Campus Planning

Copy: William Janelle, Chris Clement, Matt O'Keefe, Mica Stark

Attachments: Location map 80% design - site plans and floor plans March 2017 3D images





















