

Merrimack Premium Outlets – Project Update

October 12, 2011

On-Site Activities:

- Five of the six buildings now have roofs installed.
- The small crusher has been removed.
- Erosion control issue will have to be addressed behind the former crushing area, north of drainage outlet.

Off-Site Improvements:

- NHDOT off site road widening and traffic signal work continues, with a majority of the first coat of paving complete. (Industrial Drive & Continental Blvd.) Traffic signal mast arms will be installed soon.

Blasting Activities:

- All major blasting activities should be concluded by October 18th (weather and permit issuance dependant), minor trench blasting may be needed for utilities.
- On October 4th a major rain event impacted site conditions. Water was observed running over the bypass trench and into the wellhead protection area by the town's groundwater consultant EGGI. This water did contain nitrates. The Fire Department was contacted and as a result of this site condition the blasting permit was pulled for the morning blast until the matter could be addressed. Action was taken at the trench with the addition of another pump and hose sized was increased. In addition, observed surface groundwater was pumped out of the area within the wellhead protection zone.

Groundwater Monitoring:

- September's on site well and surface water testing results indicated elevated levels of nitrates. As part of the project protocol, notification to the community must occur if nitrate levels rise above 2.5 parts per million (ppm), if levels exceed 5 ppm, this is considered an Action Level and a mitigation plan must be put forth. The drinking water standard for nitrates in New Hampshire is 10 ppm. Tests wells are located all over the site, with those within the Town's wellhead protection area being of highest concern. In addition, testing of surface groundwater flowing into the wellhead area had readings above Action Level. Readings within the wellhead area in three of these wells, as well as 1 surface water reading outside the wellhead area were also within the Action Level.
- In response to these readings, additional rounds of testing were ordered on September 16, September 23 and October 5th so that nitrate level trends could be monitored over time. Based upon the October round of testing, two of the readings within the wellhead area have gone down, and one well nitrate reading had increased.
- Based upon these findings, the town's groundwater consultant has recommended that all blasting cease until a detailed plan is presented outlining all remaining blasts. In addition, another round of testing is required on October 18th and the town's consultant also intends to conduct its own water test over the next few days. Also, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will be contacted so that they are aware of these issues. All testing and analysis has been conducted under the supervision of the Town's groundwater consultant. A full reporting of these findings and test results are available at the Town's Community Development Office.









Most Buildings now roofed

