



Sept. 7, 2012

Construction noise to increase as demolition gets underway

Recent tests find no elevated levels of mold inside NRB

The set-up of scaffolding on the south side of the Natural Resources Building is complete, as is the construction of the temporary interior containment walls. Now, the demolition work will ramp up.

For tenants, this means more noise, as the contractor begins removing windows, window frames and the exterior cladding. The demolition work, which happens from about 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. each day, will start at the west end of the building, near the rotunda, and move eastward.

Before demolition began, an industrial hygienist certified that the interior containment walls were sealed and that any mold spores that might become airborne during construction cannot enter tenant work areas. The walls were certified on Aug. 30.

Each containment wall consists of a layer of plastic sheeting on the tenant side; then a layer of wallboard; insulation; more wallboard; and then a sheet of polyethylene, a very strong type of plastic commonly used to temporarily seal off rooms during a construction project. Tenants may notice airflow around the walls. This is normal and expected with the fluctuating conditions of the building airflow. It does not mean that air is flowing through the wall.

The contractor will inspect the walls twice daily to ensure there are no accidental breaches.

Air quality/roof repairs

The industrial hygienist recently took air and surface samples on the fifth and sixth floors of the building. The results, which are posted on the [project webpage](#), showed very low levels of fungal growth (mold), nothing to indicate a health concern, according to the hygienist.

Roof repairs began on Aug. 24. Unfortunately, fumes from a solvent used for the repairs were drawn into the building that day through the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system air intakes, which are located on the roof. This affected some tenants.

Since then, Enterprise Services and the roofing contractor have taken a number of steps to address this issue. Now, when the roofing work is underway – from about 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Enterprise Services is putting the HVAC system into a recirculation mode, so no air is drawn into the building from the roof. The department is also working to maintain a comfortable temperature inside the building.

For more information

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