8/18 Neighbors Meeting – Post-Test Blast
EAST CAMPUS
Proposed
Blasting Plan

No Parking Area

Blast Zone

Blast Radius - 500'

Traffic Stop Point

Site Fencing: Gate Locked During Blasting & Preparation

Sentry Location

Muster Point

Sentry Locations

No Parking Area

Blast Zone

Traffic Stop Point
Neighborhood Seismograph Locations
Test Blast Details

- A single test blast was performed on **Friday, August 14 at 10:30am**
- Prior to the test, seismographs were placed at locations around the site for monitoring, and at selected neighboring properties
- The test took place within the area already surrounded by construction fencing
- The test was performed by Maine Drilling & Blasting, Inc., and coordinated by and with University personnel, the Princeton Fire Department and University construction manager Whiting-Turner
- The following procedure was followed for the test and will be followed for future blasts:
  - A security check of the area within the construction fence precedes the test
  - Five minutes prior to the blast: three short audible “horn” warnings
  - One minute prior: two short audible “horn” warnings
  - After the blast: One short audible “horn” warning to indicate all clear
Post-Test Blast Update

• August 14th test was successful and occurred as planned
• Total of 16 seismographs were installed for the test and future blasting:
  o 5 seismographs installed by the blasting company as required by permit (marked in yellow on the plan)
  o 11 additional seismographs were installed by independent consultants: 7 around the Garage site (marked in red on the plan) and 4 at university lab buildings.
• The seismographs were programmed based on a conservative minimum threshold for the monitoring of vibration
• Of the 16 seismographs, only one registered any vibration over the minimum threshold
• This location, across the street from the blasting site, still registered well under the maximum permitted threshold
• The condition of the rock after the test was as expected, and showed that the size of the charge was appropriate
Next Steps

- The required blast strength has been confirmed and future blasts will not exceed this level
- The anticipated start of regular blasting is **Thursday, August 20th at 10:30am**
- Blasting will generally occur Monday-Friday at 10:30am, with completion expected within 8 weeks
- The monitoring by seismographs will continue at the locations shown on the plans
Other Topics: Soil Hauling

- At the last Neighbors meeting we presented plan to haul soil via Faculty Road / Harrison Street, with 150 daily trips expected.
- After re-evaluation, we will instead route loaded vehicles to Faculty Road / Alexander Road, thereby avoiding the community adjacent to East Campus.
- Empty trucks will return to East Campus via Washington Road / Faculty Road.
- Completion of the soil hauling is anticipated in 10 weeks.
Other Topics: Noise Attenuation Steps

• In response to noise concerns, drill rigs were repositioned and sound attenuation blankets were added to site fencing

• The loudest type of drill rig (air hammer) was removed from the site and this type will not be used again on site for the drilling of geothermal boreholes

• An acoustician was engaged to further evaluate ongoing work, and recommended additional attenuation measures that are being implemented this week:
  o Sound attenuation blankets/barriers lifted above the site fence height
  o Sound attenuation blankets/barriers erected around the drill rigs

• Per the acoustician, these additional measures will have a positive impact on noise levels

• The acoustician will continue to monitor sound levels over the course of the work and provide further recommendations as needed
Q & A