

November 10, 2020

Campus Neighbor Meeting: TES TANK Facade

Q&A

Question: Will the existing and proposed trees adequately screen the tanks from the view at Faculty/FitzRandolph?

Response: Yes, we believe the existing and proposed trees will provide screening in these areas. There are multiple mature existing trees at the southwest side of the tanks by the intersection, as well as along Faculty. In any areas that did not have the benefit of existing trees, new trees will be added (as shown on the plans) to help screen the tanks.

Question: The existing tree canopy is very tall. What will be the height of trees planted?

Response: Typically, the University plants new trees of a modest size to help ensure the trees have the best chance to thrive over time. If we plant trees that are too big, there is a greater risk of them not surviving. With that said, and understanding the area around the tanks along FitzRandolph is of particular concern, the University can look to find the “sweet spot” in tree size to provide the largest trees possible we think can be successful, albeit at a greater risk to viability than with smaller trees.

Question: In your presentation you talked about the lattice structure on the North Garage. What about the example of the lattice structure you had mentioned previously on the side of Frick Chemistry. Why do planting work there and not as screening for the tanks?

Response: The installation at the brick wall by the Chemistry building is a different condition in that the lattice structure there is directly adjacent to the brick wall construction behind, and the lattice system there is to help train the plants to grow and attach onto the porous brick behind.

Question: It appears that the evergreen trees near the corner of Hartley and Broadmead will not screen the tanks from neighbors. Can you confirm the height of the existing evergreen trees? Can you show a rendering of the view from Faculty/Hartley towards the tanks to show if the evergreens adequately screen the tanks from the neighbors?

Response: Yes, we will review the height of these trees, and study the view from the intersection at Broadmead and Hartley. We will provide a rendering of that view.

Question: Can additional trees be planted on that corner to further screen the tanks?

Response: We will review the planting plan to see if there is adequate room to plant additional trees to help screen the tanks in the future. Note that any new trees planted would most likely not be any taller than the existing mature trees there today for several years.

Question: Did the acoustical study consider the noise from the transformers that are part of the project?

Response: The updated acoustical study does consider the noise from the exterior transformers, as well as all of the other equipment at the TIGER facility. The report is currently being updated to include some recent equipment developments as well as respond to comments by the Municipality's consulting engineer. The updated report will be posted to the Facilities Projects webpage once available.

The acoustical study was conducted based on a "worst case scenario" assuming that ALL equipment would be operating at the same time. This scenario is not possible for many years as only two of the four Heat Pump Chillers (and associated pumps) will be installed and operational on "day one". Even if/when all equipment is installed years from now, it will be on a rare occasion that all equipment would need to run concurrently.

Question: What will be done if the sound from the building exceeds the projections in the study?

Response: If the sound levels from the TIGER Facility exceed the predicted values and are deemed to be in violation of the Municipal Ordinance and/or NJ State Noise Code, the University would be required to address the issues to comply. As noted previously, the acoustical study was conducted based on a "worst case scenario" assuming that ALL equipment would be operating at the same time. This scenario is not possible for many years as only two of the four Heat Pump Chillers (and associated pumps) will be installed and operational on "day one". Even if/when all equipment is installed years from now, it will be on a rare occasion that all equipment would need to run concurrently.

Question: Why are the decibel levels on the map different than what is quoted in the Sextant Group report?

Response: The acoustical report continues to be updated as the design and engineering for the project is refined. Developments such as equipment selection, equipment location within the building, proximity to louvers at the exterior walls, as well the building envelope construction are all factors in the predicted sounds levels that are calculated.

Question: Can the view on the map on slide 16 be "widened" to show the noise readings at Western Way?

Response: Yes. The extents of the map and associated sound level data can be enlarged to include Western Way. This updated view will be included in the presentation to the Planning Board.