

Questions submitted by Preserve Rural Orange, 9/19/2011 (paraphrased)

How have the plans for the Bingham Facility changed since July 2010?

The plans for the facility have changed quite a bit since July 2010, but not at all from our last public meeting back in January 2011. As we said then, the School of Medicine's change in plans for the use of the Bingham Facility means that animal waste will be captured on disposable bedding at the Bingham Facility, which allows our wastewater consultants to provide an economical solution to the wastewater needs of the site. The Advantex system we will be refurbishing is the permitted system that was in place before the deemed permitted system (the one with the most problems) was installed in 2008.

What are the current and future needs, infrastructure, size and scope of facility?

Most likely, the facility will continue to operate as it does now. The only major change we are studying is the feasibility of capturing the waste of the dogs currently housed there on disposable bedding so that we can stay within our permitted wastewater treatment limits. If this can be done with no negative effects to the dogs or the research, we will make the change. If not, we will use Bingham to house smaller animals, like mice, whose waste is captured on disposable bedding.

What is the construction schedule?

We will not be constructing any more buildings on the site, and renovations to Building 1 are complete. The only project remaining to be done is the water treatment system refurbishment, which is on hold until a public hearing request by PRO takes place and NC DENR approves the modified permit. The original date for completion was August 2012, but the delay may add another three months to the schedule, as well as to pump and haul activities.

What kind of research will occur? Who is it funded by? Who will conduct the research? What will be the number of staff on site?

The primary research at the Bingham Facility will continue to be gene therapy and other treatments for hemophilia using a special colony of dogs developed by Tim Nichols. Joe Kornegay, who had planned to relocate his colony of muscular dystrophy dogs to Building 3, will instead be taking a new position at Texas A&M University at the end of the year and relocating his dog colony there. The staff size will remain at about six to eight people, not including any construction workers there for the short term.

How many animals will be on site? What species? Where will they be housed? What is the timetable?

About 150 dogs are currently housed on the site, but some of those will be relocated to the Frances Owen Blood Research Laboratory in Carrboro when renovations to that facility are completed. Buildings 1 and 2 will continue to house dogs, but in the future, Building 3 may be

used as a space for checking the health status of other species before they are introduced to the main campus or as swing space for other research animals, such as mice.

Who will run the facility and supervise operations present and future?

The Bingham Facility is operated by the Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM). Lisa Sparrow, who lives nearby the Bingham Facility, is the facility manager. For the near future, Bob Lowman, associate vice chancellor for research, will continue to be the project manager for the facility.

When will meetings with updated information be held? Who are the contacts at UNC about the Bingham Facility?

The next meeting related to the Bingham Facility is a public hearing requested by PRO to be scheduled and noticed by NC DENR. When that process is completed and our schedule for constructing the wastewater treatment system is revised, the University may schedule another meeting or advise neighbors of the changes by email. Bob Lowman, continues to be the contact person at UNC about the Bingham Facility.

Where are public documents about the facility being posted?

They are posted on the Bingham Facility website:
<http://www.unc.edu/community/ingham.html>.

Who is the UNC emergency contact person? What is the status of coordination with county emergency alert system?

In the event of an emergency, the University will first contact 911 and neighbors should do the same. Dispatchers will then have the option to activate an alert through the Code Red system, if appropriate.

What is the status of the NC DENR wastewater system permit modification and pump and haul?

The modification of the University's permit from NC DENR has been put on hold temporarily for the scheduling of a public hearing requested by PRO. Because of public noticing requirements, the public hearing will cause a delay of at least 90 days, thus extending the already approved pump and haul activities on the site.

What is the status of the site plan to be presented to the Orange County Planning Department?

The University has presented a revised site plan to the Orange County Planning Department for information purposes. County approval of the plan is not required since we are not constructing a building.

What is the status of testing of the wells of Bingham Facility neighbors?

Our consultant has identified the three neighboring wells (in addition to our own well and the former Lombardo well, which have both been tested and come up clean) to be sampled, based on their placement within the aquifer. University counsel has drawn up a permission form for the well owners to sign. Once we have their permission, we can proceed with the sampling.

What is the status of any pending issues with federal agencies (NIH, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.)?

We have no matters pending with federal agencies. The \$14 million ARRA grant money was returned to NIH when we canceled plans for expansion, and we received a Nationwide Permit for impacts to streams and wetlands from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2010.

What are UNC's plans for testing for impacts of waste discharges and malfunctions in soil, silt and sediment and mitigation of these impacts?

As we have explained many times in the past, any leaks that occurred at Bingham were of treated wastewater, water that met the state's standards for being spray irrigated on the ground. While the University was fined for violating its permit, DENR never found that the leaks caused contamination on the site or that mitigation was required.

When will UNC test for impacts on Collins Creek and its abandoned capped well?

We will not be testing for impacts on either Collins Creek or the well we are no longer using and have capped because it would serve no purpose. For Collins Creek, it would be impossible to show whether any impacts came from the Bingham Facility or from agricultural operations farther upstream. For our former well, it would be expensive and impractical to uncapped it and, since we have already tested our current well and the neighboring Lombardo well and found nothing of concern in them, we don't expect that we would find anything of concern in the capped well.

What are the EHS protocols for testing neighbors' wells and stress tests for availability?

We will not be testing wells for capacity because we no longer plan to be pumping 20,000 gallons of water per day. The limits of our permit will stay the same as they are now, so we will not be putting additional stress on other wells.

Describe the new wastewater treatment system and the rebuilt ponds. What are the location and acreage of the sprayfields? How many inches per year will be sprayed? Will overflow sensors be installed? What is the impact on the land and the neighbors?

Please see the system description, which was submitted to DENR on Dec. 22, 2010, that is posted online at <http://www.unc.edu/community/b/1210/12-22-10%20UNC-CH%20letter.pdf>. The biggest changes are a slight adjustment in some of the locations of the spray fields to make use of the best soils for absorbing the irrigation and the rebuilding of the ponds. Instead of being

lined with plastic, the new ponds will be lined with a thick layer of clay that will meet NC DENR standards for filtering, allowing the treated wastewater to seep through over time and make overflows less likely. The treated wastewater will meet state standards for spray irrigation, so there will be no negative impacts to the land, the water or the neighbors.

Where have the propane tanks been relocated? What is the impact on the stream?

The new, larger propane tanks are located farther downhill than before and farther from the buildings, which makes them less of a fire risk in the event of a leak. They are closer to the stream but are at no greater risk of contaminating it than at the previous location.

What are the plans for cutting down trees for the sprayfields?

Some trees will need to be cut down if they are in the path of the new irrigation pipes, but we will not be clear cutting to establish new sprayfields.

What are the plans regarding security? (gate location, after hours staff, alarms, sensors)

Certain staff remembers need to come in at night for health and maintenance of the animals. We will not be adding after-hours staff for security. Instead, we will be installing sensors and cameras to monitor the property.

What are the plans regarding fire safety? (water storage, Building 3 roof, propane tanks vs. natural gas, equipment for fire department)

Because we are not going ahead with the extensive expansion we had planned before, there will no longer be an impact on the fire safety rating for insurance in the area. We have confirmed this with the White Cross fire chief. Consolidating our propane into fewer, larger tanks improves fire safety as does relocating the tanks further downhill and away from the buildings. We do not have funding to provide a water tank on site for fire suppression or to purchase equipment for the local firefighters; instead we are improving fire prevention by decreasing fire risk at the site.

Who is maintaining the former Lombardo residence? What are the future plans for the property?

The University will not be using the Lombardo property as a caretaker residence. Instead, it will be rented. Until it is rented, the University is taking care of its maintenance.

How are neighbors' concerns about noise being addressed? (chillers, dogs, trucks, construction)

The new Smardt chiller is up and running and is serving Building 3 and another chiller had its compressor replaced. Electrical service to the temporary chiller and to the old York chillers has been disconnected. The dogs at the facility are kept inside; the only time their barking can be heard outside is when they are allowed to exercise in their screened runs. This is done only during daytime hours. (Truck and construction noise are addressed below.)

What is the schedule for trucks and other vehicles servicing site?

Now that construction of the refurbished water treatment system has been delayed for a public hearing requested by PRO, pump and haul activities will be continued on the same schedule, once a week, for an additional 90 days and throughout the construction process, about the next nine to 12 months. Propane is delivered to the site by truck about every two months.

When will the University implement the same dark skies policy at Bingham as it does for Carolina North and main campus?

UNC staff members have checked the outdoor lighting on the Bingham site and all the fixtures are shielded to prevent light spillage into the night sky and onto neighbors' property.