

# Customer Update

*Virginia Tech Facilities*

*A bulletin for Facilities' customers*

**Construction \* Maintenance \* Utilities \* Renovations**

## Safety

- While we at the university take pride in our surroundings, classrooms, and offices, we also need to take the time to ensure we do not cause a potential environmental emergency when taking things under our own control. Policies have been developed to ensure spaces are tested and reviewed prior to work taking place for the safety of not only the workers but the occupants as well. Any time policies in place are circumvented, we endanger not only ourselves but all the co-workers around us. Please take the time to ensure all of us are protected and we all enjoy a safe place to work.

## Capital Design and Construction

- Construction was completed on Phase II of the Bioinformatics project.
- Preliminary field investigation and/or planning was initiated for the Classroom Improvements project, the renovation of Cowgill Hall, and the exterior repairs to Litton Reaves.
- Whiting-Turner was selected as the Construction Manager for the Biology/Vivarium Facility. Final design of the facility is currently in progress.

## Physical Plant Operations

- Major roof replacements scheduled for this summer include the front section of the Food Science and Technology Building, Smyth Hall, and the Old Security Building. Plans are being prepared to replace the roofs on Slusher Hall, Ambler-Johnston Hall, and Lee Hall. These projects may be completed this coming summer, depending on bids received.
- Campus patrons should be aware that major excavation will probably take place over the coming summer near the Donaldson Brown Center, the University Club, Vawter Hall, Owens Hall, and East Eggleston Hall in connection with a sewer upgrade project. Details will be forthcoming as soon as plans are finalized.
- The first several weather events of the season have occurred, breaking the recent trend of mild weather. Patrons are reminded to contact Customer Service at 1-4300 to relay any concerns relative to slippery conditions on campus that might need extra attention.

## Utilities

- Mechanical Utilities**  
The Mechanical Utilities group has been involved in doing site work in preparation for installation of a temporary boiler in the southwest part of campus. This has involved grading out the area, installing underground utilities, and pouring a concrete slab for the boiler. The preparatory work was completed the first week of January and the boiler arrived the week of January 10. Work is now underway for making the boiler operational.

## Virginia Tech Electric Service (VTES)

VTES has completed the repairs to the Steam Plant generator controls. The voltage regulator and associated protection and control equipment have been replaced and the unit is in the process of being returned to service. Final testing of the protection and control schemes are being completed this week. The unit should be operational by the end of the week. The unit provides power generation to the university for nine months during the year and is capable of providing 14% of VTES peak load requirements. The unit also generates 8% of the kilowatt-hours consumed on the VTES system.



**Facilities** announces the arrival of the new web-based Facilities Service Request (FSR) Submittal Process!! Any questions call 231-9905. The web address is <https://facilities.stl.vt.edu>

## Campus Renovations



- The original construction of the Kentland Farm Smokehouse, one of Virginia Tech's most exceptional buildings in terms of its historic significance, while leaning and fragmented is now structurally stabilized and preserved for observation. The Smokehouse is perhaps one of the only hexagonal smokehouses that survive in Virginia. In the early 1990's a catastrophic collapse of the north side of the building occurred and although two-thirds of the brick portion of the building fell to a pile, the roof and timber frame superstructure remained in place. An adjustable steel tube structure was inserted into the building to help brace it against further collapse without a single item of the building being moved. To protect the structure from further weathering and decay, a lightweight steel tube and plastic enclosure was assembled around the building. This enclosure is roofed with a pre-fabricated grain bin roof similar to existing structures found in the surrounding historic complex.