

Nash Animal Facility Renovation and RBL Construction Update

Beginning the week of January 7, 2008, Inman Construction, general contractor for the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, will begin demolition work in the Nash Annex as part of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) construction project. This phase of the project will include razing and renovation of the containment area in the basement of Nash. This area is located in the northwest corner of the basement, adjacent to the soiled cage wash room. Interior walls will be torn down and the area will be remodeled to become the primary animal service entrance to the RBL. This phase of the project will also include a breakthrough from the RBL into the Nash Annex. The demolition portion should be finished within 30 – 45 days of the start date with total project completion achieved within 90 days. As a part of this work, unavoidable noise and vibration will likely affect animals housed on the first floor (Open Barrier) of the Nash Annex animal facility as that area is immediately above the construction site. We are working closely with the contractor to minimize the actual demolition time and resulting disruptions and service interruptions.

To protect valuable breeder animals from noise and vibration, the Laboratory Animal Care Unit has established temporary rodent housing rooms in the large animal area of the Nash Annex. These rooms will provide the greatest physical separation from the construction noise and vibration. Ventilated caging will be used for housing and open barrier husbandry procedures will be followed. Investigators who would like to move breeder animals to this area should contact the responsible LACU supervisor for their areas. We would like to have all animal relocations completed by January 8, 2008. Once the work is completed to such a point that noise and vibration are no longer expected, animals will be returned to the Open Barrier housing area.

If you have special requests or need additional information, please contact the LACU supervisory or veterinary staff.

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