

At the October Board of Trustees meeting a project was approved to renovate the Chilled Water distribution system of campus. The System is comprised of a pair of 24" Chilled Water Mains (supply and return) installed the length of campus from the Chiller Plant on the north end of campus through the central utility corridor of campus (under Mastodon Way) to the south end of campus feeding chilled water for cooling to all campus buildings along the way. The chilled water mains installed in 1970 are of carbon steel with an asphalt coating. Some of the back fill material included sharp aggregate that damaged or deformed the protective coating. Over time electrolysis eroded small areas of the pipe throughout the entire length resulting in over 100 leaks that have been repaired. The current rate of chilled water loss is at 14,000 gallons per day. At the end of the spring semester 2015 a leak was discovered and repaired that was leaking at a rate of 40,000 gallons per day. The frequency of new leaks is increasing. The solution to the problem is to place a fused polymer sleeve in the each of the pipe mains. T's for taps for service connections to buildings along with the adjacent valves and the isolation valves will be removed to accommodate the installation of the liners and will be replaced with new ductile iron pipe and new valves.

On approximately November 16, a contractor will be starting the project to renovate the chilled water mains that serve all campus buildings. The renovation will involve excavating at several locations along the length of the mains where there are isolation valves or building service connections. The Valves and T's will be removed to facilitate the installation of new lining material. There will be fencing around the excavation and will be temporary by-pass walks installed to accommodate pedestrian traffic. It should be noted that excavators and dump trucks will be moving from the various excavations to remove concrete and soil to off campus locations. Everyone is encouraged to be alert while walking along Mastodon Way this winter.

The work will also involve semi-trucks loaded with liner materials and trucks with boilers that are used to heat and circulated the hot water that is need to expand and set the liner material. This work must be done when we are least likely to need cooling, and was specifically scheduled to coincide with the normal shutdown of the chiller plant (normally in mid-November). Based on recent forecasts for this winter, it is possible that Fort Wayne will experience unseasonably warm weather during this construction period. The mild temperatures will be good for the contractor to get the work completed, however, it might be that we will have a few days where building temperatures will be higher than normal, especially in the afternoons. If outdoor air temperatures are above 60 degrees there is very little cooling capacity available, even if we try to introduce a high percentage of outdoor air in the ventilation systems. The campus buildings may become warmer than usual during days like this. The best way to reduce overheating is to turn off as many lights and unused equipment as possible. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation while we try to make the campus a better environment for our students.