

Fermilab Community Advisory Board

November 19, 2020 meeting

Members attending: Paul Egeland, Chris Faber, Carrie Garstecki, Jim Gebhardt, Leah Goodman, Ellen Huxtable, Sydney Jordan, Denis Kania, Dean Kilburg, Britta McKenna, Crystal Porter, Mike Salazar, Arnolfo Santoro, Alexandra Tsang

Fermilab/DOE personnel attending: Lauren Biron, Mark Bollinger, Jacquie Bucher, Kate Gregory, Amber Kenney, Karen Kosky, Nigel Lockyer Alison Markovitz, Kim Mazur, Chris Mossey, Becky Thompson

Introductions

Rebecca Thompson

Site Access

Nigel Lockyer

The lab site in Batavia continues to be closed to the public. Roughly half of the staff have been working on site more recently. Due to rising COVID cases in the state, staff have been encouraged to continue to work remotely.

We are working on revamping our access plans for when COVID restrictions are removed. These changes are to align with DOE's expectations on risk and potential threats. While cyclists, walkers and visitors will be welcomed, IDs will be required for all adults accessing the site. We aim to make that process as easy as possible. Access hours will change as well, including access hours for outdoor activities due to safety concerns and ongoing construction on site over the next few years.

Buildings will be locked on site, with keycard access. Wilson Hall will remain open during the day, including weekends, but locked at night. Public access to Wilson Hall will be limited to the ground floor, 1st floor atrium, 2nd floor Art Gallery. The 15th floor will be open for those on escorted tours. We are in the planning stages of building a Welcome Access Center at the entrance off of Kirk Road.

Q. Will visitors be allowed in on Warrenville side?

A. Yes, the east entrance will be open, using the new access requirements.

Q. What is the timeline for the Welcome and Access Center?

A. We presently expect to start construction in 2022.

Q. Given COVID challenges has any funding been affected for the lab as a whole?

A. The present Administration and Congress continue to be very supportive of the lab, and funding remains strong. An impact of COVID is some things have slowed down, which affects costs. We have done a thorough and careful analysis of the impacts. Some projects are back to 100%, and others take more time to ramp up. In addition, current restrictions have impacted the ability of international users to come to the lab, but we are working on this. DOE has done a really good job at how they have managed COVID at the national labs.

LBNF Update

Chris Mossey

Presentation linked in the agenda

Chris Mossey, the Deputy Director of LBNF/DUNE-US, gave an update on the progress with LBNF and DUNE. He announced that, in October, a contract was awarded for the excavation stage for the South Dakota site for the project. The DUNE collaboration consists of over 1200 scientists from over 200 institutions in 33 countries. Fermilab is the host of this first internationally conceived, constructed and operated experiment.

Q. What happened to all the rock and soil in the main cut in Lead, South Dakota?

A. It is still in the area. The rock and soil were piled around the edge of the mountains in the area in terraces. For example, if you look to the pack of the picture, you can see some of the terraces that have had top soil put on top and been seeded with grass.

Lab Response to COVID 19

Amber Kenney

We have been closely monitoring COVID rates in our region as well as the state's resurgence mitigation plan. We are ensuring that we align with those that while continuing the lab's mission. Minimizing density on site is our goal and we are deferring lower priority work where appropriate.

In both Illinois and at the SURF site in South Dakota, the lab has had 39 positive cumulative cases which include employees and contractors. There has been no evidence to date of on-site transmission. Safety protocols are closely adhered to, we have instituted a number of protective measures, including mask wearing, social distancing, and a hazard analysis process where appropriate. We have a very rigorous contact tracing process as well. Tests are offered to employees if they work on-site and are exposed or symptomatic. The lab is maintaining active communications with all employees to ensure everyone is aware of the current status and that they are reminded of the safety protocols. A new virtual lunch series began today to discuss COVID-related matters at the lab.

Q. Can employees be tested?

A. Testing on site is presently available for on-site personnel who have symptoms or been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

Q. Once a vaccination is available, will the lab require verification of vaccination?

A. This requires further evaluation.

News from the Lab

Lauren Biron

Presentation linked in the agenda

February Open House Update

Rebecca Thompson

Presentation linked in the agenda

Comment: Offering the Open House over a five day period is a good way to educate students.

Q. How do you plan to promote the Open House?

A. We will work with our communications office to promote through our social media and other national and international networks. The EPE office also has a social media platform that is education focused. We will also promote through our education and community contacts, as well as through our Arts & Lecture Series. This past summer, our online teacher workshops reached a national audience which resulted in newly established teacher networks across the country.

What the lab should know

Mark Bollinger, DOE Deputy Site Office Manager, noted that the new DOE Site Manager starts on January 4 and likely will attend the next CAB meeting.