

Development Activities Meeting

Minutes: September 9, 2021

University of Pittsburgh: Bellefield Boiler Plan steam line replacement

Presenting: Owen Cooks, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning

The Bellefield Boiler Plant, owned by a consortium of various institutional entities, sits atop property owned by the city of Pittsburgh. This vital piece of infrastructure produces steam for the various institutions by which it's owned, including the Carnegie Museum, The University of Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory, UPMC, and Pittsburgh Schools.

The University of Pittsburgh secures design and construction for projects to maintain the Bellefield Boiler Plant. The proposed maintenance project requires Art Commission approval because it is visible from the street and is on city-owned property. We are scheduled for the October Art Commission meeting.

Contractors will install a new steam line adjacent to the existing line; it will sit at the same height and include galvanized steel and black insulation. Once the new line is activated, they will remove the old pipe.

The consortium anticipates construction to start this month and conclude by January, presenting to the Art Commission in October.

Questions from the community

Q: You mentioned that there is a certain window of time the project is necessitated by. Will the steam plant be shut down for any duration of the construction?

A: Yes, we do have a certain window of time, one that is closing quickly. The fall is usually when we schedule all preventative maintenance activities on the plant. We'd like to have it up and running by October. If, for whatever reason, the Art Commission process is held up, we'll get as many superstructure measures we can up until we can do a spring change out. However, we're working very quickly to meet our deadline, and ensuring to accommodate any Art Commission comments along the way.