Columbia University’s goal is to provide economical and reliable air conditioning on a 24-hour basis to its Morningside campus buildings. In order to meet growing cooling demands, the University has committed to undertake a major expansion of its central refrigeration plant located in the original powerhouse. The new refrigeration machines will provide an additional 5,600 tons of cooling. Project completion is anticipated by fall 2010.

Construction Activities for the Weeks of:

April 19, 2010 and April 26, 2010

Week of April 19, 2010

General Activities

- Restoration of the powerhouse ash pit walls continues.
- Preparations begin for the installation of the steel beams for the new floor in the powerhouse.
- Demolition of the abandoned chillers in the Fairchild penthouse machine room continues.
- Installation of the new electric service to the powerhouse from the CEPSR electric service continues.
- Excavation continues in the coal tunnel to connect the powerhouse ash pit to the compressor machine room.
- Delivery of the 30 inch diameter condenser water piping begins.

Week of April 26, 2010

General Activities

- Restoration of the powerhouse ash pit walls continues.
- Preparations continue for the installation of the steel beams for the new floor in the powerhouse.
- Demolition of the abandoned chillers in the Fairchild penthouse machine room will be completed.
- Installation of the new electric service to the powerhouse from the CEPSR electric service continues.
- Excavation in the coal tunnel will be completed.
- Delivery of the 30 inch diameter condenser water piping continues with one delivery per week for the duration.

Looking Ahead

- During the upcoming months, there will be much activity in the areas of the Grove and Fairchild buildings. New cooling towers will be rigged in place on the Fairchild roof, which will require the use of the largest mobile crane available in New York City.
- In addition, 30 inch diameter pipe risers will be erected along the east side of the Fairchild building. The pipe risers will provide the cooling water for the new refrigeration machines.

Need More Information?

- For questions or concerns, please e-mail proj@columbia.edu or call the Columbia University Facilities Services Center at 212-854-2222