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:
January 18, 2010 and January 25, 2010

Week of January 18, 2010

General Activities

• Floor removal in the powerhouse will occur.
• Removal of the abandoned piping in the powerhouse begins.
• Relocation of the existing utilities in the powerhouse and various tunnels begins. This will accommodate the new piping and equipment.

Week of January 25, 2010

General Activities

• Floor removal in the powerhouse continues.
• Removal of abandoned piping in the powerhouse continues.
• Test probes will be made in the tunnel and powerhouse floors to support foundations.
• Work will begin on the Fairchild roof to expose structural steel members.

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 projx@columbia.edu or call the Columbia University Facilities Services Center at 212-854-2222