

# CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER



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## BUILDING A FOUNDATION

At face value, digging a hole may seem like a simple task – and, for the most part, it is. But when enough variables go the right – or wrong – way, even the most simple of things can become quite complicated. Through most of December and January, unseasonably warm temperatures, abundant groundwater and difficult soil conditions conspired against the mass excavation efforts planned for this phase of the construction process.

In another phase of construction, the spring like temperatures experienced this winter may have been a welcomed advantage. They may still have been were it not for just the right frequency and amount of rain and snow to create a constant state of mud. This not only restricted access to and movement around the site, but directly impacted excavation activity also. Soil that is the consistency of toothpaste is difficult to haul and does not have many useful applications.

While progress was not as significant as intended, there was progress. Adjustments to the mass excavation strategy and overall site logistics provided a noticeable impact.

Entering the month of February, excavation was far enough ahead to allow the start of concrete foundations. On February 8, 2006, the first foundation concrete was poured. Though conditions in February were not much better than in the months prior, construction activity recovered some much needed momentum. At the time of this report, mass excavation is substantially complete and concrete foundations are at approximately 30%.

As the new hospital foundation takes shape, planning and preparation of succeeding building components moves forward. After review and approval of the first package of shop drawings in early March, structural steel went into fabrication. Review and approval of remaining structural steel shop drawing packages will continue into April and should be completed just as steel erection begins toward the end of that month. Coordination of curtainwall/exterior skin is also in progress as is the development of bid documents for the remainder of the building enclosure. Bid & award of interior construction will follow these efforts in May/June.



(From Left to Right & Top to Bottom) This series of time lapse stills, showing what could be mistaken for a twelve month time period, actually depict the number of different weather conditions experienced from November 22, 2005 to January 13, 2006.

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(Top, Left) Existing soil conditions required excavating deeper than initially anticipated and building back up with an aggregate base.

(Bottom, Left) The first foundation concrete pour was made on February 8, 2006.

(Above) Foundation wall activity moves steadily forward as the last stage of mass excavation takes place in the new hospital loading dock area (photo background).

(Left) Partial backfill is completed after the concrete has sufficiently cured to allow the removal of formwork.

(Below) A section of completed foundation wall along the south side of the new hospital.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 1 Month

- Start of new hospital-related underground utilities
- Bid & award of building enclosure work categories
- Start of remaining existing campus site work & parking lot reconfigurations

### 3 Months

- Completion of concrete foundations
- Structural steel erection fully underway
- Bid & award of interior construction work categories

### 6 Months

- Completion of structural steel erection
- Placement of concrete floor slabs & installation of spray-applied fireproofing
- Start of building enclosure (exterior walls & roofing)

