

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012  
8:30 A.M.**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and provided to the media on January 18, 2012.*

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair  
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair  
Bernie Heier  
Jane Raybould  
Brent Smoyer

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012 STAFF MEETING**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the minutes of the January 12, 2012 Staff Meeting. Raybould, Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None were stated.

**3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel and Joe Kohout, Kissel/E&S Associates**

Gordon Kissel, Kissel/E&S Associates, presented a legislative update (Exhibit A).

Discussion took place regarding the Governor's proposal to eliminate State Inheritance Tax. Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said Lancaster County collected \$6,600,000 in inheritance tax last fiscal year. He said those funds are placed in the County's General Fund and used for operations, thereby reducing the need for property tax. Hudkins stressed the need to educate state senators on the fiscal impact. Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said there have been allegations that some companies will not locate in Nebraska because of the Inheritance Tax. He said the tax is paid by individuals, not companies or corporations. Eagan said Dave Kroeker, former Budget and Fiscal Officer, did an analysis at one time of what the average taxpayer would pay in property tax over their lifetime compared to what might be paid in Inheritance Tax upon their death. He said he is trying to locate that data. Kissel said they will be working with Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director, and representatives of Douglas and Sarpy Counties to develop a strategy. Raybould suggested they also consult the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded to: 1) Oppose any efforts to repeal the Inheritance Tax; and 2) Direct Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, to prepare a fiscal note for the County's lobbyists. Smoyer, Hudkins, Heier, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director, appeared and requested permission to testify in support of Legislative Bill (LB) 787 (Authorize inspection and regulation of staff secure facilities by the Jail Standards Board). There was no objection to the request.

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, appeared and discussed LB 239 (Require presentation of government-issued photographic identification to vote in elections). He estimated the fiscal impact to the County at \$11,000 to \$12,000, based on an amendment that came out of the Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. It was noted the County Board has received a number of emails regarding this issue, most of which expressed opposition to the legislation. Schorr said many of those emails were submitted at the request of a specific entity. Shively said the Secretary of State's Office provided him with information regarding an outside poll on this issue and said the majority of respondents favored a voter identification requirement. He agreed to share that information with the Board.

- 4 POTENTIAL LITIGATION** - Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney; Doug Pillard, Design Division Head, County Engineering; Jim Shotkoski, Right-of-Way Division Head, County Engineering

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 8:59 a.m. for the purpose of protecting the public interest with regards to potential litigation.

The Chair restated the motion for the record.

**ROLL CALL:** Raybould, Heier, Hudkins, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Smoyer seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:12 a.m. Heier, Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### A. Committee Assignments

The Board reviewed the list of committee assignments (see agenda packet) and made the following changes:

- Board of Health will move from Schorr to Smoyer.
- Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA) will move from Hudkins to Smoyer.
- Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) will move from Smoyer to Schorr.
- Lancaster County Corrections Facility JPA; Monthly Meeting of County Board Chair, Vice Chair and Mayor; and Officials Committee will move from Heier to Hudkins, as Hudkins is now the Vice Chair. Hudkins will also serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Equalization.

### B. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Institute of Excellence

Schorr asked staff to send an email to the elected officials to see if they, or their chief deputies, are interested in attending.

### C. County Employee Recognition

Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, County Board, appeared and asked whether the Board would like to again hold an employee recognition breakfast and award Shop Lincoln gift certificates to employees being recognized this year. She noted the gift

certificate amounts were reduced last year as a cost savings measure and estimated the cost of the breakfast and gift certificates will be \$8,454 if those levels remain the same (employees with 25, 30 or 35 years of service will receive \$100, employees with 15 or 20 years of service will receive \$50, and employees with 10 years of service will receive \$25). Board consensus was to hold the breakfast and award the gift certificates, as outlined, and to try to determine which of those employees plan to attend the County Board of Commissioners Meeting that will follow the event so they can be recognized by the Board.

**5 INTERN PROGRAM** - Professor Tyler R. White, PhD, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL)

Professor Tyler R. White, PhD, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL), discussed the benefits of having an internship program (Exhibit B).

Raybould said she was contacted by Diego Moreno, a UNL student who is interested in an internship with Lancaster County, and developed a list of possible research opportunities and tasks (see December 8, 2011 Staff Meeting minutes). Schorr noted other departments already have internship programs in place. Board consensus was to ask Moreno to meet with the Chair, Vice Chair and administrative staff to discuss a possible internship in the County Board's Office.

**6 PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CODES** - Fred Hoke, Director, Building and Safety Department; Bob Siemsen, Chief Plumbing Inspector; Merl Scott, Chief Mechanical Inspector

Bob Siemsen, Chief Plumbing Inspector, and Merl Scott, Chief Mechanical Inspector, gave an overview of proposed changes to the plumbing, fuel gas and mechanical codes and fees (see agenda packet). Fred Hoke, Director, Building and Safety Department, said the proposed changes were approved by the City Council.

Heier noted the proposed change relating to carbon monoxide detection and suggested the term "fuel burning appliances" be changed to "permitted fuel burning appliances" for clarification. Building and Safety agreed to make that revision.

The Board scheduled action on the proposed changes to the codes and fees on the January 24<sup>th</sup> County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

**7 ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

## **8 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items.

## **9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Committee Assignments
- B. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Institute of Excellence
- C. County Employee Recognition

Items A-C were moved forward on the agenda.

- D. County Board Night Meetings Schedule

The Board will hold the regular County Board of Commissioners/County Board of Equalization meetings at 5:00 p.m., instead of 9:30 a.m., on the following dates: February 7<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>.

- E. One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program Meeting (November 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.)

Informational only.

## **10 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

## **11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

- A. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Raybould

Raybould reported on a meeting of a special task force formed to solicit input from the community on whether to make playgrounds and sporting fields smoke or tobacco free.

- B. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Smoyer

Smoyer said he was unable to attend the meeting.

C. District Energy Corporation (DEC) - Hudkins, Heier

Information regarding the DEC thermal energy facilities that will serve the new Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) was disseminated (Exhibit C). Heier suggested the Commissioners tour the facilities and said Bob Workman and Ray Stevens, former Lancaster County Commissioners, might like to join the Commissioners in the tour. He also reported that 141 of the geo-thermal wells have been re-drilled. **NOTE:** Inspectors from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) rejected 145 of the wells that had been drilled as the boreholes did not meet state specifications.

D. Hickman Railroad Quiet Zone Public Hearing - Schorr

Schorr said the City of Hickman is investigating the feasibility of establishing a "quiet zone" (a railroad grade crossing at which trains are prohibited from sounding their horns in order to decrease the noise level for nearby residential communities) in the community. She said the "quiet zone" would affect two public and two private rail crossings.

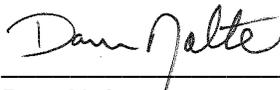
## 12 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Hudkins and Raybould reported that they attended a Homebuilders Association of Lincoln luncheon on Wednesday. Hudkins said the luncheon speaker suggested that housing inventory is low and encouraged the builders to build more "spec homes" (homes a builder constructs with the belief that someone will eventually come along and want to purchase). He also reported that a concern was relayed to him regarding the siting of driveways in the County.

Raybould said she also attended Adult Probation's Reporting Center Advisory Committee Meeting and said discussion focused on programming.

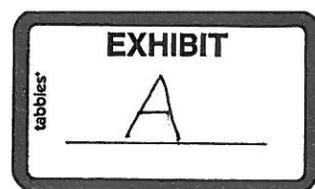
## 13 ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Smoyer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Heier, Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk





Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

January 19, 2012

Today is the tenth day of the session. It is also the last day to introduce bills.

Yesterday in Judiciary Committee the committee heard a couple of bills of interest to the County Board. The first was Senator Amanda McGill's bill which would authorize the voluntary waiver of compensation by jurors. This is a bill introduced on our behalf. Kerry Eagan testified for us. Lancaster County spent \$245,000 on juror fees and mileage last year. He suggested that codifying the process would be a suitable way to recognize those who help keep down the cost of the justice system. We anticipate this bill to be a bill on consent calendar. The second bill was LB 908 introduced by Senator Scott Lautenbaugh. This bill would change the way the three dollar fee for indigent defense court are distributed. Currently the indigent fee of three dollars is deposited into the Commission on Public Advocacy Operations Cash Fund. This bill would remit the fee that is collected in any county containing a city of the metropolitan class to the county treasurer of such county for credit to the indigent services fund for that county. It is anticipated that if LB 908 were enacted the impact would be around 380,000. Several people testified in opposition including a letter from Dennis Keefe and representatives from NACO and the State Bar Association.

We are working with Larry Dix regarding the elimination of the inheritance tax. Senator John Wightman has introduced bills reducing the percentage. We will be getting together with Larry Dix and representatives of Douglas and Sarpy Counties to map out a strategy.

Many employers and government agencies include these as reasons or benefits of having a quality ongoing internship program in their organization:

- Offers employers a cost-effective program for recruiting highly qualified and motivated students to meet the company needs
- Provides well-prepared short-term employees to assist current employees, so they have opportunity to pursue higher projects
- Meets peak or seasonal needs without a long-term commitment
- Offers a low-cost method of training potential future employees
- Helps to identify potential future hires and nurtures interest in the field
- Provides an opportunity for supervisory experience for developing employees
- A way to gain short term talent
- Provide the organization with fresh ideas
- Fulfill a civic and professional responsibility by providing students with real work experience
- Low-cost, high quality labor
- Build Relationships with Local Colleges
- Increase Diversity

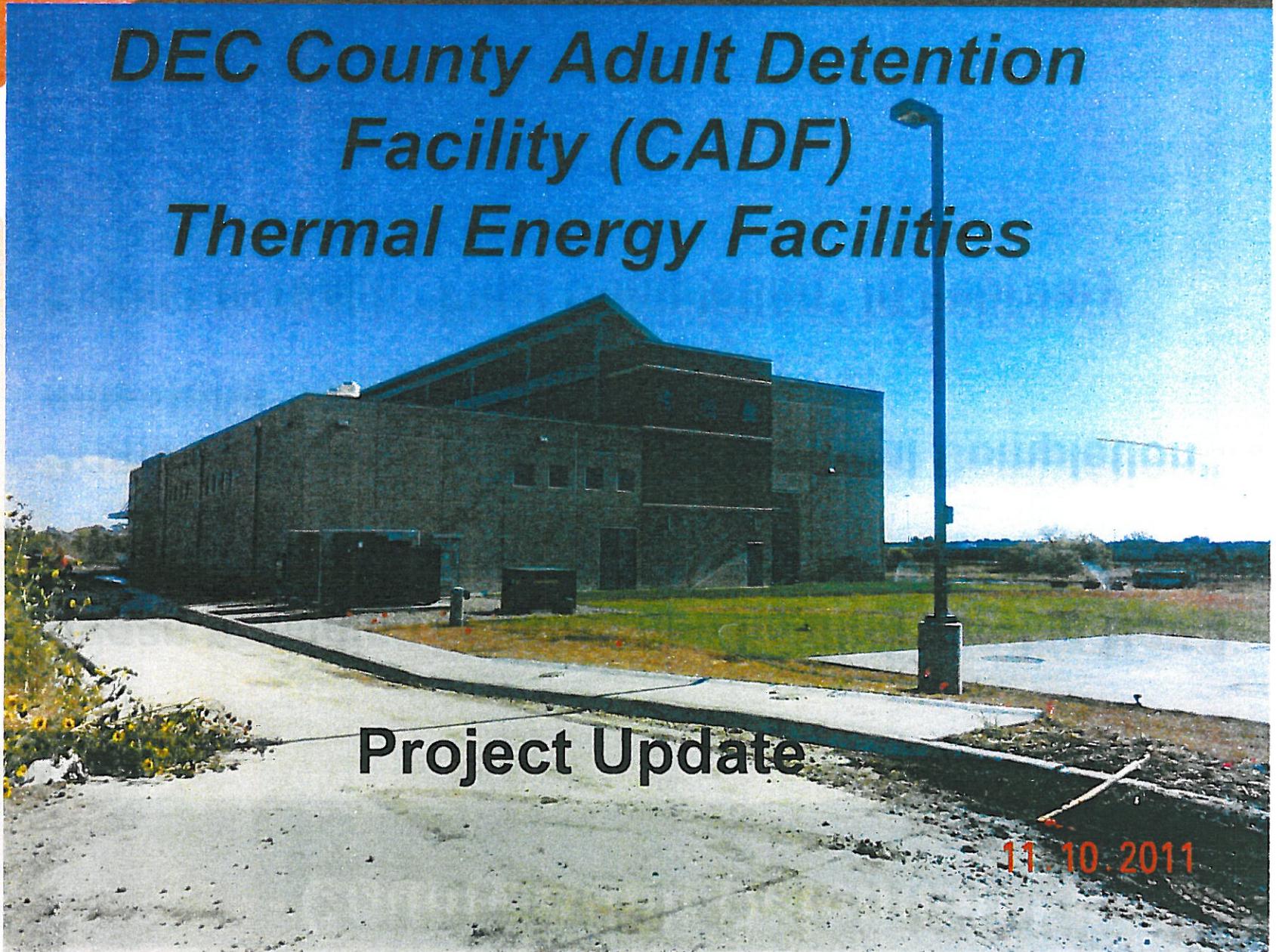
Identify the type of work you will have your intern do so they will be an asset to your organization. Have high expectations. The students will measure up to your requirements. (From Pacific Lutheran University)

Interns at UNL

POLS 395 offers 1-6 hours of credit

- Assignment requirement for UNL interns
- Recent UNL internships
  - Whitehouse
  - Intelligence Community
  - Nebraska delegation
  - Legislature
  - Planned Parenthood
  - Political Parties
  - NGOs with global reach

# *DEC County Adult Detention Facility (CADF) Thermal Energy Facilities*



**Project Update**

11.10.2011



# County Adult Detention Facility

## General

- **Began providing construction heating service Nov 1**
  - **Final Commissioning of H.P. system in February**
- **Prime contractor reached “Substantial Completion” milestone**
- **Expect to reach “Final Completion” in February**



# West Haymarket Design Status

- **Distribution system design proceeding**
  - Evaluating expanding distribution to Market Place
  - Met with potential customers in Haymarket
- **City Code Dept. reviewing CUP construction drawings**
  - There have been several meetings prior to submittal
- **Air permit application 90% complete**
  - Expect to submit to LLCHD in February



# West Haymarket Project

## Major Milestones

- Award major equipment bids **Completed**
- Obtain Short Term Financing **Completed**
- Issue CUP bid **Completed**
- Issue 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Equip. bid **Completed**
- Equipment Bid Opening **January 17**
- CUP Bid Opening **January 24**
- Begin CUP construction **February**
- Provide arena construction heating service **Jan/Feb 2013**

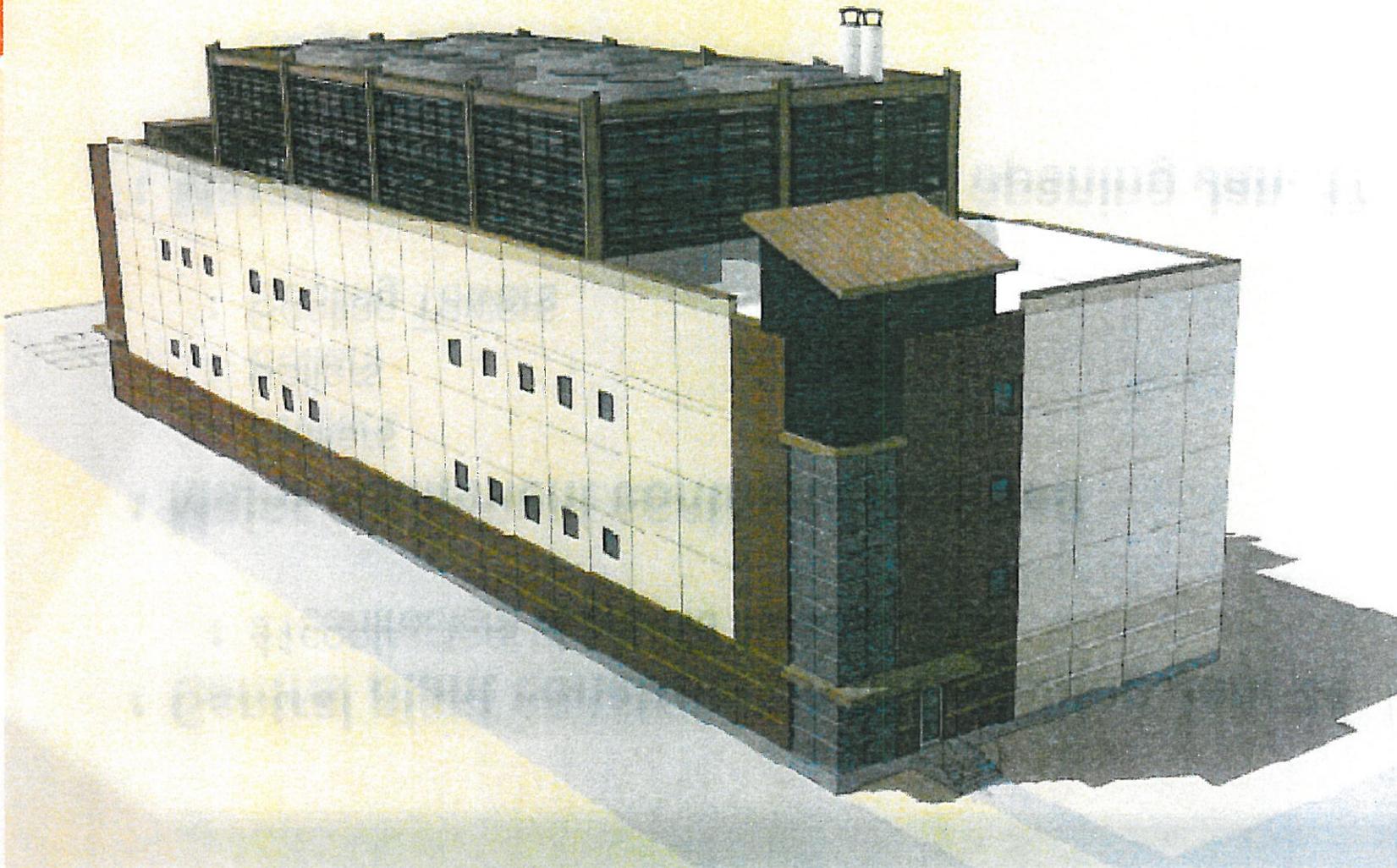


# West Haymarket Design Status

- **Central plant construction bid opening Jan. 24**
  - 41 contractors at pre-bid meeting
- **Major equipment contracts awarded**
  - Chillers
  - Boilers
  - Cooling Towers
- **Major equipment packages bid opening Jan. 17**
  - Emergency Generator
  - Large Pumps

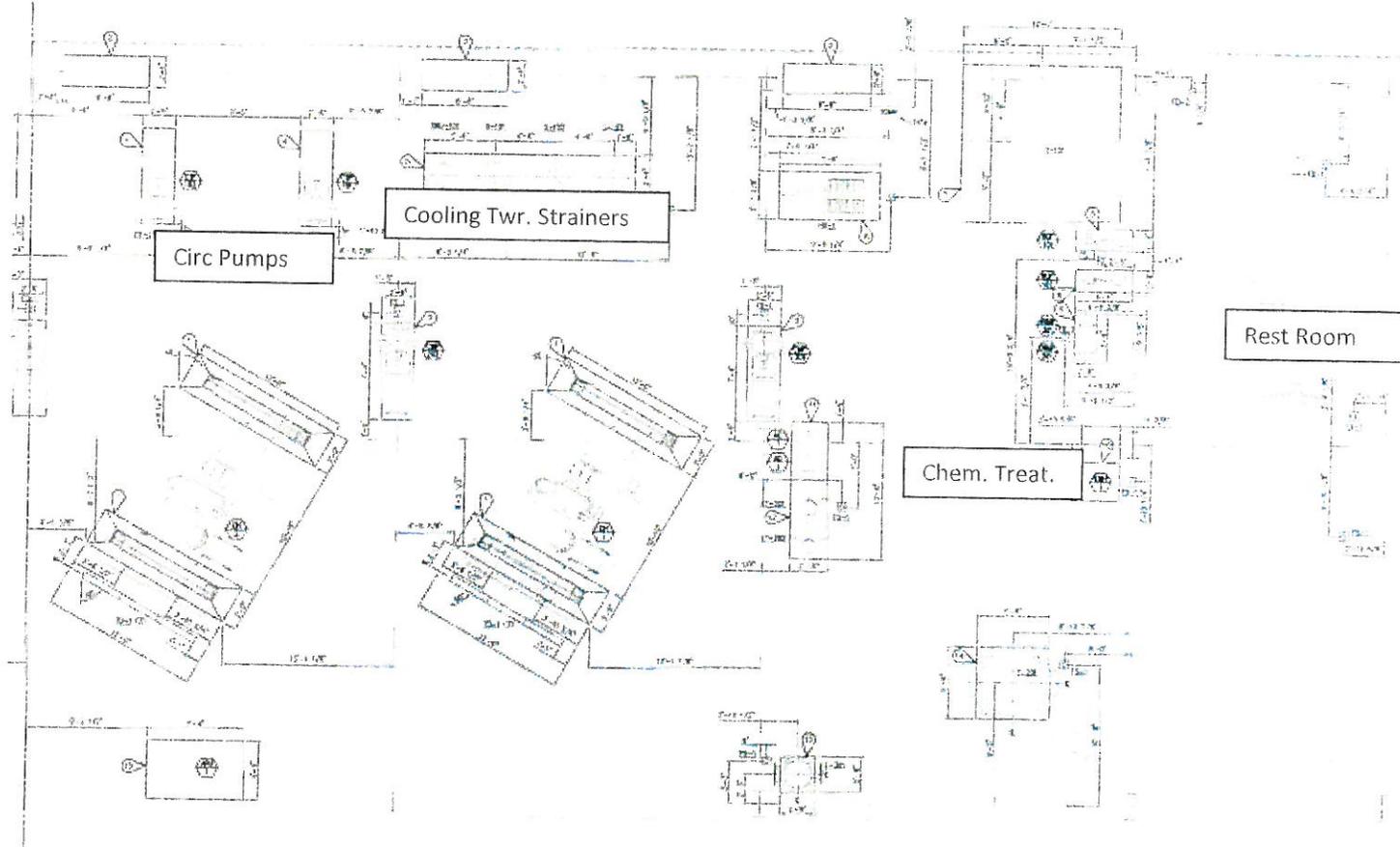


# DEC West Haymarket District Energy System



**DEC WEST HAYMARKET THERMAL ENERGY FACILITY**  
northeast view - from 'R' street elevated

# West Haymarket Permits

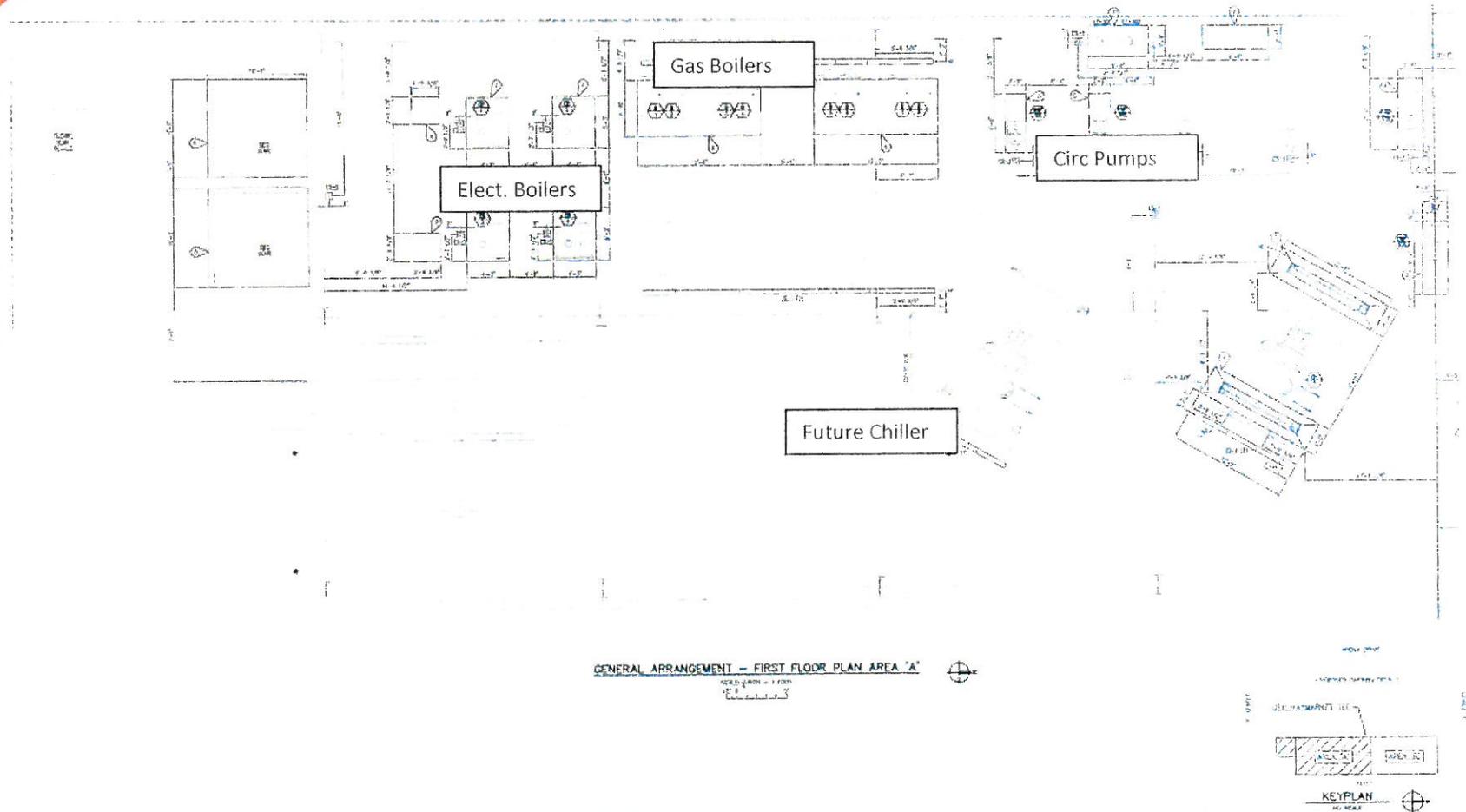


GENERAL ARRANGEMENT — FIRST FLOOR PLAN AREA 'B'

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

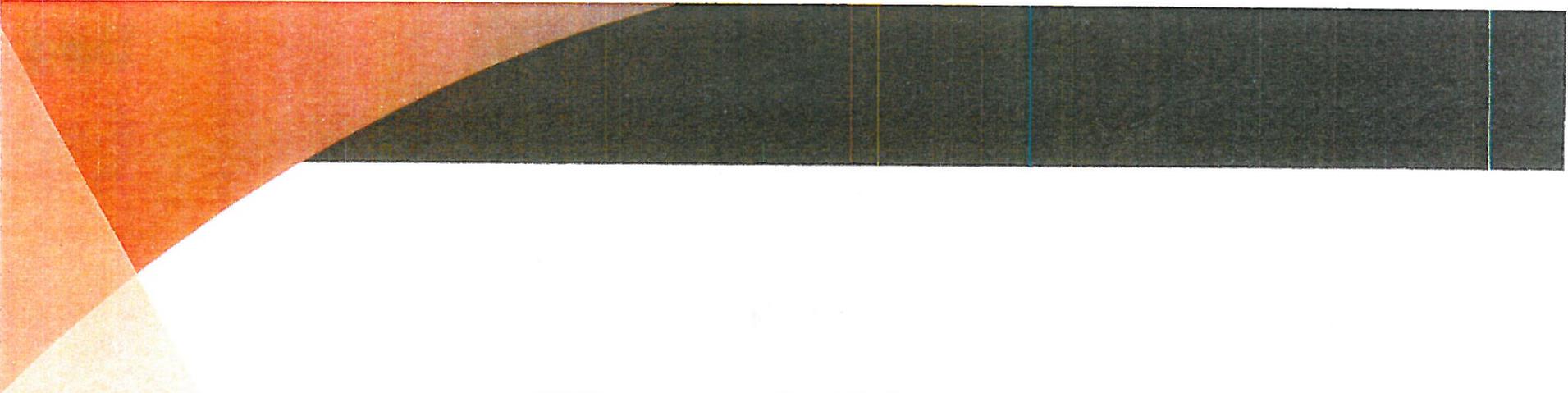


# West Haymarket Permits



- **Updated State Thermal Service Agreement**
  - Added new service point
  - Addressed payment requirements for conservation projects
  - Added conditions for monitoring performance of conservation projects
- **Developed bond resolution for financing conservation projects**
- **Began design work for distribution system expansion**





# Thank You

## Comments/Questions

