

**DATE:** June 18, 2019  
**TO:** Libby Ramirez, University Architect and Capital Resources Manager  
**FROM:** Michael J. Green, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
**SUBJECT:** Notice of Decision – Hinsdale Fire Studies Research and Material Testing and Staging Yard

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On June 05, 2019, the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) reviewed a request by the College of Engineering (COE) for site approval for the Hinsdale Fire Studies Research and Material Testing and Staging Yard. If approved, this request will designate a 9,500 SF area on the west side of the O.H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory (HWRL) for fire studies research and other materials testing and staging. The area currently provides materials storage for structure studies and contains a river testing facility that will be re-purposed to accommodate a fire studies apparatus. COE also is proposing to add fencing around the fire studies yard to increase safety and make site improvements to facilitate materials staging.

The College of Engineering anticipates that researchers from both the COE and the College of Forestry will use the site and that the installation of the below-grade fire studies apparatus provides several benefits for the COE and the university. The project is proposed to:

1. Increase OSU's ability to conduct interdisciplinary research that is supported by grants from various agencies specializing in fire studies.
2. Improve the quality of data collected due to the reduction of environmental factors.
3. Relocate smoke-producing research to a less populated part of campus.
4. Create an area for this type of study that is in line with safety protocols.

The College of Engineering anticipates that researchers from both the COE and the College of Forestry will use the site. It will be used both by principal investigators and their students. Supervised student lab activities are also anticipated at the site.

After review and discussion, the CPC found the proposal consistent with the Campus Master Plan policies and recommended **SITE APPROVAL**, subject to the following conditions:

1. Because the existing CRIS site approval does not expire until July 20, 2019, the College of Engineering shall formally withdraw the site request for the CRIS project prior to approval of the site for the Fire Studies Research and Materials Testing and Staging Yard. (Following the CPC meeting, the COE met this condition by formally submitting a letter withdrawing the former site request. See the attached letter.)
2. Any activity conducted in the proposed fire studies and material testing yard shall not allow the discharge of hazardous materials off site or into the groundwater on site. (CMP 2.8.8)
3. To ensure that the site remains flexible and adaptable to future use for academic and research initiatives and activities, the College of Engineering shall be responsible for removing any debris or improvements from the site prior to terminating its use of the site. (CMP 2.2.4)

I **APPROVE** the Campus Planning Committee's site approval recommendation for the proposed Fire Studies Research, Materials Testing, and Staging Yard.



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Michael J. Green  
Vice President for Finance and Administration

6/25/19

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Date

cc: Tarrigon Van Denburg, Facilities Operations and Safety Manager, College of Engineering  
CPC Files