



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Demolition To Begin For Start Of Downtown Raleigh Green Square Complex

RALEIGH – Demolition of three buildings will begin this week to make way for the Green Square Complex, a two-block, multi-use sustainable development project that will bring together in downtown Raleigh most of the state's environmental offices and a nationally significant Nature Research Center.

Interior demolition and asbestos abatement of the three buildings currently on the two sites, bordering Jones Street between Salisbury and Dawson streets, began in February. These activities involved the Elks, Thompson and Old YWCA buildings. Materials that can be salvaged from these buildings will either remain on-site for reuse in the construction of the Nature Research Center and office building for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or shipped off-site for recycling. In this manner, demolition will become the first part of the sustainable building process for this project.

During the preliminary environmental assessment of the site, state officials discovered that a dry cleaner used to operate on the corner of Salisbury and Jones streets. An estimated 1,500 active and abandoned dry-cleaning sites are found in North Carolina and at many of these sites, the groundwater is contaminated with solvents used in the cleaning process. State officials performed an initial round of soil and groundwater sampling at the Green Square site, and sampling results showed levels of contamination that warranted a second phase of environmental assessment to gauge the extent of contamination. Oversight for cleanup is being conducted under the Inactive Hazardous Sites program within the Division of Waste Management. Once the assessment is complete and the extent of contamination is known, officials will proceed with an appropriate remediation plan.

The Green Square Complex will enable the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to promote environmental stewardship by example to the general public, while providing experiential learning opportunities focused on the current scientific research and environmental issues affecting our daily lives. The Nature Research Center – an innovative expansion of the Museum of Natural Sciences – will help close the gap between where we need to be and where we are in regards to science education in North Carolina. The new office building will allow NCDENR to consolidate its capital area employees in two nearby buildings (Green Square and the Archdale Building).

A ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony and celebration is set for Earth Day 2008 (April 22). The Department of Administration and NCDENR are partners in the project construction, set to be complete in 2011.

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