

Dane County Airport Site Visit to View Southern Expansion of Terminal

March 1, 2022

BRRts# 02-13-584472

- On March 1, 2022, Steve Ales (WDNR) visited the Dane County Airport and met with Mike Kirchner. Kirchner is lead engineer with the airport. Purpose of site visit was to view the new expansion of terminal and discuss handling of soil and groundwater from that work.
- The expansion is being completed to the south of the existing terminal. Once completed the current ground level terminal located along a southeast diagonal from the south end of the existing airport terminal will be removed. The area is flat and no runoff from the site was observed.
- Kirchner indicated the new terminal expansion is being constructed in an area where airplanes used to be parked. As such the cement and subsurface had been constructed to withstand the weight of large, commercial aircraft. There is no history of AFFF or use of other PFAS containing materials at this location.
- The terminal expansion is located where there was 16" of concrete underlain by 5" of asphalt, underlain by 27" of engineered fill, i.e. - heavily compacted material designed to support the weight of commercial aircraft.
- The skeletal frame of the new terminal is in place and there are large trucks and lifts/cranes present in the construction zone. Neither the cranes/lifts nor the heavy trucks were sinking into the ground. The surface layer of the ground had melted (there was likely frost beneath) but the heavy equipment didn't sink in. Kirchner explained this was due to the engineered fill.
- Trucks leaving the construction zone are cleaned and the travel path of the trucks was free of mud. Kirchner explained they need to keep the tarmac clean so that jet engines don't suck up debris that may damage them.
- Kirchner explained the new terminal is being constructed on shallow footing rather than deep pilings. The reason for this was to minimize the amount of material that would have to be removed from depth. The new footings are within/above the 24" of engineered fill. The only area that went deeper was the elevator shaft. That material was spread on the ground surface and will be under the terminal once it is completed. The concrete and asphalt in the area of the new terminal has been removed.
- Engineered material that was removed is being temporarily stored at a location in the north end of the airport. Kirchner indicates that most of that material will come back to this site as construction proceeds.
- The concrete adjacent the building is in very good shape with no cracks.
- No groundwater has been encountered and there hasn't been a need to pump down the water table. Groundwater hasn't interfered with terminal construction.

