Snowmass Mountain Construction Update

Week 9: June 12 - 18, 2011

Greetings from Snowmass Village! For the next few weeks I can report on construction progress first-hand. My initial impression upon seeing our complex from Owl Creek Road as I drove in from the airport was that nothing had changed! It is remarkable that, from the road, our complex looks as stately as ever in its position high on the mountainside.

Two days later I attended the weekly meeting between SMC representatives (usually Hank Hays and either Carl Vill or George Falk) and the Neenan Company on site and, after donning the requisite safety helmet and vest, was able to see the extraordinary project that we have undertaken, a view completely concealed from the road.

The good weather of the past two weeks has certainly facilitated the work and now I, along with everyone else connected with the project, have begun following the local weather reports anxiously hoping that the typical thunderstorms of summer are minor this year.

In this update let me simply annotate some of the pictures I took to show you different aspects of the work going on simultaneously in several places throughout our complex.



In the photo above, Carl Vill, Bill Perry of Neenan Co and Hank Hays are meeting in the project office which has been set up in the JKL covered parking garage. The office offers a small but quiet respite from the activity just outside the door. Ron New of the Neenan Company participated in this meeting via conference call.



The second picture shows two of the dump trucks that rumble up and down narrow, curvy Upper Woodbridge Road 50+ times per day carrying out material excavated from what used to be the driveway. After the shoring is concluded, our driveway will need to be rebuilt, meaning more fill will need to be brought back up the road. You can appreciate the demand this kind of heavy truck traffic makes on this little road. Part of the contract with Neenan will be the resurfacing of Upper Woodbridge Road at the conclusion of the project – a measure demanded by the Town of Snowmass Village as part of their approval for the project. You might also be sensitive to the noise and disruption our project is causing for our neighbors in the Woodbridge Condominiums., because every one of those trucks goes past their complex.

Some of the measures the Neenan Company has taken to protect our buildings are shown in the next few pictures. Note in the following picture the additional braces added to the carport of Building F – extra insurance against vibrations. You might also see how much of the driveway has been excavated from the front of the carport. At this point we were walking about 5 feet below the surface of the original driveway.



The next shot shows the drilling rig – more on that in another update –here just note the tarps draped from the rooftops. Tarps extend down the face of the buildings to protect from the "gunk" – mud, soil and water -- that shoots out of the drills at great force splatting everything -- human, mechanical, or structural -- in its path.



More tarps on the faces of lower buildings. You can also see the tie wall at the edge of the driveway that is already beginning to disappear.



Plywood protects the large windows in Building A office and conference room area.



This final picture shows the fencing that closes off the complex at the end of each work day. The sign notes the Neenan Company emphasis on safety awareness and the necessity of hard hats and safety glasses for everyone on the site.

