

Snowmass Mountain Construction Update

Week 10: June 19 - 25, 2011

This week has begun with a severe winter weather alert: snow accumulations of 3-6 inches above 10,000 ft. with flurries at our elevation in Snowmass Village. Today – Monday the 20th – is cold and dreary. Winter has returned for a final bite, despite the calendar. Summer begins tomorrow. During my site visit last week I was able to take several pictures of the shoring/drilling process and I want to share those in this update.

The drill rig is enormous, weighing more than 38 tons, and is similar to those used in oil well drilling. Its weight is carried on the two bulldozer-like treaded wheels, and it rests upon a special flooring of thick oak beams brought in just to spread the weight of the machine. In the photo below, you can see a couple of things – the yellow Komatsu main frame of the rig, the oak planks, and the drill apparatus itself. Note that the action is going on about 15 feet below the surface, which itself is about 5 feet below old driveway (recall from last week's update a picture of Building E showing the excavation below the carport). The amount of excavation that has already taken place is remarkable.



Next are a couple of shots of the drilling in action.



Below you can see a close-up view of the bundle of cables that the drill rig is positioning into the bedrock. The cables carry the grouting cement and steel rods that anchor and

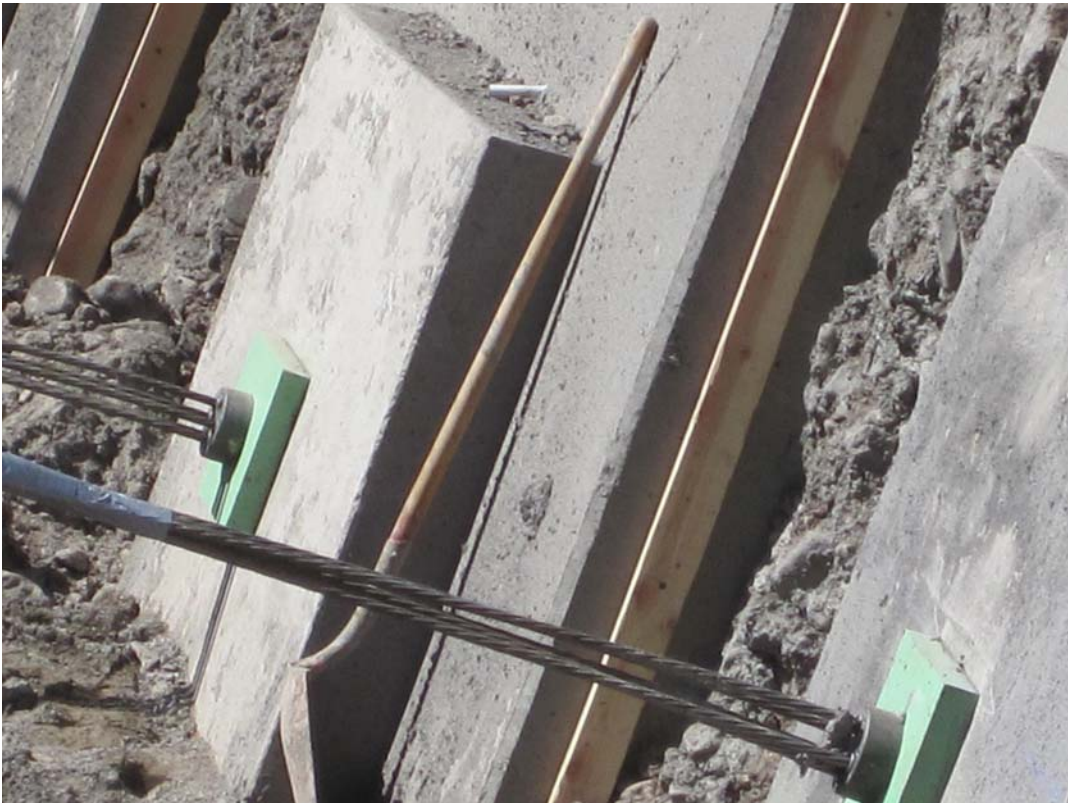
stabilize the giant concrete blocks positioned every few feet against the soil.



Left: some of the
drill bits used in the
drill rig.



Above and below (closeup): Shoring blocks that have been anchored into place.



All of this, of course, will be reburied under tons of earth at the conclusion of the project, and no one will be able to see the actual work that went into stabilizing the wall. This time around, however, there will be detailed drawings and documents on file so that decades into the future, construction engineers will know the exact location of every block and every drainage pipe and utility line buried under the driveway. The excavation, shoring, anchoring process will continue throughout the summer, weather permitting.

Meanwhile, elsewhere on the complex, the major sewer line that extends the length of the driveway has been completed. Several manholes will offer ready access to the line if it is ever needed. Buildings are being power-washed, corner boards replaced, repairs made to siding, and the like – all in preparation for the new paint. A picture below shows that work in progress. And finally, I have included a picture of the new angled entry of our storm drain into the drainage ditch that runs below the bike path – one of several improvements that will mitigate the risk of overflow from our runoff into the ditch. I'll send a second update later this week. Greer Fox

One of the new manhole covers – standing on solid ground here – but it will lie beneath the new driveway surface.



