

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE GATES

Written by Deputy Mayor Ken Boulderstone, Township of Ocean

Drainage issues

When some sections of Waretown were developed in the 1950's or 1960's storm drains were not installed so when there is heavy rain some of the homes in these sections are flooded and in the last year or so the amount of rain has been much more than normal so the ground is saturated, and for some homes never dries out. In the interest of protecting Barnegat Bay the Department of Environmental Protection will not permit the addition of new storm drains that release more water to the Bay, or to pipe water to wetlands. Commercial developments are required to have dry wells on site and consideration is being given to requiring french drains and dry wells on any new residential construction also, so that surface water stays on the property and doesn't flow to adjoining lots.

Another option being explored is for the Township to buy land to create detention basins and to instal drains and pumps in the affected sections and pipe the water to the detention basins.

Oyster Creek Decommissioning

Holtec conducted an update on the decommissioning:

- All Fuel removed from the Reactor
- 230 kV transmission lines from the plant to JCP&L removed
- Nuclear instrumentation removed and will be shipped out as it was radioactively contaminated during operations
- CRDM (Control Rod Drive Mechanism) removed and will be recycled
- Vehicle Barrier modifications have been installed as checkpoint has been removed
- Intake Security upgrades
- Back Site Buildings are closed and furniture is being donated to community service organizations
- The Zirc Fire window is ended
- Site License transferred

On July 1 2019 the sale of Oyster Creek to Holtec International closed. Holtec assumed ownership of the site, real property and used nuclear fuel and will manage site decommissioning and restoration activities. Holtec contracted with Comprehensive Decommissioning International, LLC (CDI), a joint venture company of Holtec and SNC-Lavalin, to decontaminate and decommission. CDI offered employment to Oyster Creek decommissioning employees. Of the 240 total employees 180 are former Exelon employees.

Spent Fuel at Oyster Creek - 4,603 fuel assemblies at Oyster Creek, including 2,529 in spent fuel pool and 2,074 in ISFSI casks/vaults (dry storage). The ISFSI storage area will need to be expanded, preparations are underway and construction is expected to begin in early 2020.

Fuel movement is expected in January to November 2021. Once all fuel is moved to the ISFSI building dismantlement will begin and plant security footprint will be reduced to ISFSI only.

Currently the plant occupies 152 acres and when reduced to ISFSI only it will be only 6 acres. If Holtec is successful in obtaining approval for a nuclear material store the spent fuel will be shipped out late 2020/2021, probably by barge.

Liquor Licenses

Many residents have discussed wanting popular casual-dining chain restaurants like Outback Steakhouse or P.F. Chang's China Bistro in Waretown. Unfortunately it is unlikely this will happen soon as these restaurants require a liquor license and there isn't a Plenary Retail Consumption License available. State law limits one license to every 3,000 of population, although licenses in excess of this limit before 1947 are grandfathered. According to the U. S. Census Bureau estimate the Township population on July 1 2018 was 9,062. At this time there are three licenses:

- Breakers Kitchen & Tap
- Kristy's Casual Dining
- Lighthouse Tavern

If you have topics you would like to be addressed please call me at (609)312-8059, email me at kbaulderstone@twpoceannj.gov, or visit me in the Town Hall.