

Towards the end of the month, we'll begin dewatering the site and bringing in equipment for the secant pile wall. In January, we'll start secant pile wall construction in earnest. It will involve several months of intensive, loud construction with long work days at the project's Wallingford site.

A secant pile wall is a construction system that supports underground excavations. It is a series of overlapping vertical concrete piles (think round columns), which together hold back the surrounding soil to allow for deep excavation and underground construction. To create a pile, a hole is bored into the ground using a drilling machine and is then filled with concrete.

The contractor will install 101 overlapping piles. Each pile is 39-inches in diameter and 92-ft deep. The secant pile wall will support underground excavation for a 45-ft in diameter and 72-ft deep vertical shaft. The Tunnel Boring Machine will exit through this vertical shaft in mid-2022. In the long term, the shaft will carry stormwater and sewage into the new storage tunnel.

During secant piles construction you can expect:

- Heavy equipment on site such as the drill rig, an oscillator, and a crane.
- Trucks coming in and out of the site to haul away excavated material and deliver concrete.
- Noise from the drill rig. This rig is loud and work will start as early as 7 am. We start early in the morning to allow the contractor to complete more of the work during daylight hours to improve safety, to maximize the use of expensive, heavy machinery each day and, to complete work as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.
- Vibration from the drill rig. You may be able to feel the vibration in your home or business. This is expected. We are monitoring vibration levels on site to ensure they are within allowable levels.
- Normal work hours are from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, although work may extend into the early evening, on occasion to complete the concreting of a pile. It's possible the contractor may also work on Saturdays as needed.

Secant pile wall construction is anticipated to last through April 2021. We will continue to send construction updates on our listserv.



*The above photo shows secant pile wall construction currently underway at our Fremont site*