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Winthrop University

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Federal Stimulus Money Will Help Replace Steam Line on Campus

11/06/2009

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University will receive $416,476 in federal stimulus assistance to replace an underground steam line that runs through the Peabody field on Alumni Drive.

Construction on replacing portions of the 418-foot line started last month and is expected to last until early 2010.

Winthrop officials applied for the energy efficiency funding this fall through the S.C. Energy Office. About $312,000 of the assistance will be a grant, while the remaining $100,000 is a no-interest loan that Winthrop will repay.

Energy cost savings on the line are estimated at $33,000 annually so the loan will be quickly repaid, according to Walter Hardin, associate vice president for facilities management.

The line supplies steam to nine buildings on the northern part of the campus. The 10-inch medium pressure line rests in a high water table area along with low pressure and high pressure return lines. Originally constructed without insulation decades ago, the line by 21st century standards wastes a lot of energy each, and the federal stimulus funds will allow correction of that, Hardin added.

The construction will preserve 12 jobs for the local contractor during the replacement work.