



North Carolina Department of Correction

214 West Jones Street • 4201 MSC • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4201

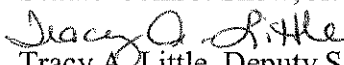
(919) 716-3700 • (919) 716-3794 (fax)

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Theodis Beck
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Alice L. Bordsen
Senator Edward W. Jones
Senator Eleanor Kinnaird
Representative Jimmy L. Love, Sr.
Senator John J. Snow, Jr.

FROM: 
Tracy A. Little, Deputy Secretary

RE: Progress Report on Joint Use by the Department of Correction and the
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the
Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center
[Section 18.11 of S.L. 2007-323]

DATE: July 1, 2008

Pursuant to Section 18.11 of S.L. 2007-323, please find attached the Department of Correction's Progress Report on Joint Use by the Department of Correction and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center.

Staff members from both agencies are available if additional information is requested.

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Attachment

cc: Secretary George Sweat
Doug Holbrook
John Poteat
Sheryl Kelly

**PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT USE BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE
JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION OF THE
SWANNANOVA VALLEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

July 1, 2008

North Carolina Department of Correction
Theodis Beck, Secretary

S.L. 2007-323

PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SECTION 18.11. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Department of Correction shall report quarterly during the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium, beginning October 1, 2007, to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety and to the Joint Legislative Corrections, Crime Control, and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee on the joint use by both departments of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center. The report shall include an explanation of significant delays in converting the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center into a facility that functions as an adult female correctional center as well as a youth development center and any cost increase related to that conversion.

Introduction

In November 2006, the General Assembly approved a plan by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) and the North Carolina Department of Correction (DOC) to share use of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center (SVYDC) campus. Under the proposed plan, DJJDP will continue to operate the southern part of the campus as a youth development center for male juvenile offenders. DOC in turn will move its operations from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women to Swannanoa and operate the northern part of the SVYDC campus as a prison facility for adult females.

The long-term goal of both departments is to effect a complete transition of the Swannanoa Valley campus to DOC in three phases; the departments are in the process of implementing Phase I of the transition. In Phase I, DOC will increase the female population in Buncombe County from 80 inmates to 165 inmates, supervised by a staff of 79 employees. DOC currently has a staff of 66 at Black Mountain and will hire the remaining employees as part of the transition.

DOC accepted possession of the northern part of the Swannanoa campus on January 18, 2008 and now provides all substantive maintenance for the entire Swannanoa campus. DOC and DJJDP are working to finalize any remaining operational issues related to joint use of the Swannanoa property, including maintenance and food service issues.

Pursuant to Section 18.11 of Session Law 2007-323, the agencies are required to submit quarterly reports detailing the progress in implementing joint use of the Swannanoa property; the agencies submitted the last report on April 1, 2008. This report provides an update of what has transpired since the April report was submitted.

The Transition Plan/Timeline

Department of Correction

To complete Phase I of the transition, DOC must complete renovation and repair of the buildings that will be under DOC management and control: Sloop Cottage; Greenwood Cottage; the cafeteria; chapel; and vocational building. DOC is using a combination of outside contractors, DOC employees and inmate work crews to complete needed renovations to the northern part of the campus.

DOC has completed preliminary repairs to Sloop Cottage and was on target to move 96 inmates to Sloop Cottage by May 1, 2008. However, a period of freezing weather in December led to the freezing and bursting of one of the hot water coils in the kitchen exhaust hood make-up air system. Subsequent investigation of the hood resulted in the discovery of several failed or removed components of the air make-up system. The project mechanical engineer investigated the failed components and developed a scope of work. DOC then presented a request to the general contractor to provide a change order for the hood repair work, but the contractor declined the change order due to time constraints. DOC therefore was required to contract this work through the informal contracting process, resulting in a six-week delay in completion of the kitchen repairs.

DOC now has completed renovation and repair of the kitchen and plans to move 96 inmates to Sloop Cottage on July 7, 2008. DOC expects to begin providing food service for the adult female population by July 7, 2008 and expects to be able to provide food service for DJJDP on August 4, 2008. DOC and DJJDP are in the process of negotiating a contract for the provision of those food services.

After the first wave of inmates moves into Sloop Cottage, DOC will continue with needed renovations to Greenwood Cottage and the vocational building. Once the renovations to Greenwood are complete, DOC plans to begin substantive renovations to Sloop while operating Sloop at partial capacity.

The state approval process for the remaining work to be completed in Phase I has been lengthy and the Department of Insurance has not yet approved the construction documents for Greenwood Cottage, Sloop Cottage, and the vocational building. The construction document approval delay results in the continuing delay of the bidding, contracting, and construction processes required to complete Phase I.

Assuming that the Department of Insurance approves the construction documents by July 18, 2008, DOC expects to complete the renovations to Greenwood and increase the population on the campus to approximately 133 by March 1, 2009. DOC then could finalize substantive renovations to Sloop and consequently increase capacity from 133 to 165 by September 1, 2009.

Conclusion

Assuming no significant additional delays in the approval of the construction documents, DOC expects to increase the inmate population to 133 by March 1, 2009, and to 165 by September 1, 2009. In the meantime, the Department of Correction will continue to provide quarterly reports regarding its progress in completing all necessary renovations and repairs and increasing the female population to 165. The completion of Phase I will be an important step toward the long-term goal of effecting a gradual but complete transition of the Swannanoa campus from DJJDP to DOC.