



November 5, 2010

Dear Mason City Resident,

As you may have learned through recent media coverage, NIACC received \$511,000 in state funding to be used in partnership with the Mason City Fire Department for construction of a regional fire training center.

This training facility will be an asset to all North Iowa fire fighters as they prepare for important life-saving training. It will help fire fighters receive the training they need without traveling long distances, which can be a financial burden and a hardship for volunteers.

We realize neighbors of NIACC may have some questions about this project. We have prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document to help answer these questions.

Please read the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions document. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact NIACC by calling Tony Pappas, Director of Facilities Management, at 641-422-4350.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra Derr
NIACC President

Q: What is the fire training center project that is being considered on the NIACC campus?

A: In 2006, NIACC received \$511,000 in state funds to be used in partnership with the Mason City Fire Department for construction of a regional fire training center.

Q: Why do we need this facility in North Iowa?

A: This fire fighter training facility will be an asset to all North Iowa fire fighters as they prepare for important life-saving training. It will help fire fighters receive the training they need without traveling long distances, which can be a financial burden and a hardship for volunteers.

Q: How large is the facility going to be?

A: The fire training center will be the size of a typical Iowa home, two stories. This makes for a practical training facility for fire fighters.

Q: Where will the facility be built?

A: Just west of the main NIACC entrance, off of US Highway 122. There is a small piece of agriculture land on the NIACC property where an access road will be added that leads to the fire training building. The surrounding property will be professionally landscaped to provide a visible shield for the adjoining neighbors.

Q: How much smoke and water will the training facility generate?

A: The amount of smoke produced would equal that of a fireplace, according to Mason City Fire Department officials. The water used to extinguish a fire will amount to no more than 35 gallons per fire. The water will be sprayed inside the building and will not impact the land. The Mason City Fire Department expects to use the facility about three times per month, with three to four fires being set each day it is used.

Q: Will this facility increase water runoff for three neighbors who live next to the land?

A: No. We understand the three neighbors next to this property have a history of water problems on Highway 122 after heavy rains. The proposed fire training center is not going to add to that water problem. NIACC is not in a position to fix the existing problem, which is not on NIACC property. However, this facility will not make it worse. Specific designs have not been drawn yet but NIACC and fire officials are looking at constructing the facility farther back on the property than originally planned to accommodate the neighbors. In addition, a water retention pond will be built and a landscape berm adjoining the neighbors' property will be designed to redirect the water to the north. Also, landscaping will be added to shield the property, creating a more natural and pleasing environment and absorb any additional water.

Q: Why was this location chosen?

A: The site we are considering was chosen for several reasons. NIACC, the fiscal agent of this project, is donating land for the project. This piece of agriculture land was chosen for several reasons. It has easy access. It is a piece of agriculture land that is not as productive as other areas on the NIACC farm. NIACC cannot give up other farm land because the farm land supports the NIACC agriculture program.