

The Expanding World of Nanofabrication – *an update from NanoFabrication Kingston*

February 23, 2024

Good day,

You are receiving this important update as a user of NFK, as a supervisor of a user, or as someone who requested to receive these updates.

Upcoming schedule

The annual period of student fabrication runs from the nanofabrication grad course (PHYS 860) is coming. Between Feb. 26 and Mar. 26, the lab will be busier than usual. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding!

For the week of **Mar. 11-15**, I will be away and mostly unable to check email. The lab will be open during this time, but usage will be limited to experienced users performing less hazardous tasks and all bookings for that week must be made **before Mar. 9th**.

Construction

The building is still under major renovation. While it does not appear to be any closer to completion, we are told that occupancy for most of the building will be granted in the Spring, with substantial completion of the base building in the Fall. From time to time there will be work that affects access to NFK (e.g., as they install flooring in the hallway), or use of the lab (e.g., power shutdowns). Hopefully these disruptions will be brief and usage can be planned around them.

Until further notice, **Door 5A** (in the southwest corner of the main building, near NFK) is inaccessible while they work on the stairwell. The nearby emergency exit, Door 5, will be open during the day but closed after hours. All access outside regular hours must be via Door 2 (off the east parking lot).

Technical issues

Badge reader. The temporary paper log sheet at the gowning room door has been removed. Please use the badge reader there to clock in and out of the cleanroom as usual. However, there is currently a problem with the usual door opener button at the gowning room, so please use the nearby remote button in the meantime.

Humidification. The new humidifier is working well and humidity control has been restored.

Evaporator. The hoist motor has been repaired and the automatic hoist has been re-installed. If you don't know (or don't remember!) how the hoist works, please ask me about it when you schedule an evaporation.

Deionized water. The building's RO water system is not working well. The quality of the DI water, even after going through our deionizer, may not be as good as usual. If you are concerned about water quality, please ask me about it when scheduling your work.

Reactive ion etcher (RIE). The chamber vacuum pump is out for repair and a scroll pump has been installed temporarily. Usage of the RIE is mostly normal during this time, except for chlorinated gases. I am working on a temporary solution for chlorinated etching that I will communicate separately to users who have expressed a need for this in the near future.

See you at the lab!

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