



## Heigh Ho! Heigh Ho! It's Off to Work We Go!

As you may have read in the papers or FermiNews, the NuMI Project has broken ground. For the last few weeks the subcontractor has been **excavating** the first shaft to serve as the access point for equipment, both for construction and operation.

Very soon, within the next week, the subcontractor will have excavated down about as far as he can using standard excavating equipment. At that point explosives will be brought in to blast through the rock down another 75' through bedrock. Then the actual tunneling will begin. Again explosives will be used to get the tunnel started.

The explosives will be transported to the site in a Department Of Transportation-approved vehicle. Only highly skilled and experienced people will handle them. After the explosives have been placed into the shaft, the work area will be evacuated. There will then be some warning signals to indicate blasting will take place. If you are in the area surrounding the construction site, you will hear these loud signals. These signals are:

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|------------------------|---|
| <b>Warning Signal:</b> | <b>5 long interval blast of a horn<br/>(lasting approximately one minute)</b> |
| <b>Blast Signal:</b>   | <b>3 short interval blasts<br/>(2-5 minutes after warning signal)</b>         |

If you hear the signals, don't be alarmed. Other than possibly hearing some muffled noise, the blast should not affect you. It's just our next step in building that tunnel!

Specific questions can be addressed to:

Bob Arnold    Ext. 8001    Email: [barnold@fnal.gov](mailto:barnold@fnal.gov)

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