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(S.D.)-Lead Underground Lab Project Ahead Of Schedule

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 09/06/2013 12:25 PM

LEAD, S.D. (AP) - A \$25 million project to replace structural steel supports at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead is ahead of schedule.

The Ross Shaft project started 13 months ago and has used \$10 million and 6,200 rock bolts so far.

Laboratory director Mike Headley says the effort is significant because the shaft allows underground material to be excavated and will be used to transport workers.

Project Manager William McElroy says crews are replacing steel H-beams dating to the shaft's opening in 1934 with a lighter, stronger and more durable tubular steel framework.

The refurbished Ross Shaft is expected to be done in June 2017.

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