

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Spring 2009



**Commonwealth
Electric Company**
of the midwest

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lincoln Spirit Award

University of Nebraska
Physical Science
Building

ABRAXIS Bioscience
NAB Expansion Project

Expo Division

CECM Tucson Gets a
New Home

Mary Lanning Memorial
Hospital - Hastings, NE

Lincoln Branch
Employees

Des Moines Expands
Service Department

Lincoln Spirit Award

Ruben Bera - Corporate Safety Director

Congratulations to the Lincoln branch for receiving the Spirit Award from the Nebraska Safety Council. This award was given for having an excellent safety record for 2008. In 2008 Lincoln experienced just 1 recordable accident with NO lost time. Considering the nature of our business, this is a great accomplishment.

Many of our other branches have received safety awards but this is the first for Lincoln. As with all other locations, the Lincoln branch has a safety committee headed by project manager Bob Philipps. Many good safety recommendations have come from this committee. Other members of the committee are:



Nicole Roach
Gary Koberstein
Bob Philipps
Matt Briggs
Jerry VanAmerongen
Paul Hoegemeyer
Jason Rieckman

Not pictured
Jen Harris
and Todd Fluent

In addition to the safety committee, Lincoln conducts service safety meetings and on-site project safety meetings. Lincoln performs electrical work in and around the Lincoln area to many different types of customers. From pharmaceutical to pet care products and new construction, each one of these has their own set of safety challenges.

A banquet was held on April 15th where the award was given. Mike King, Lincoln Branch Manager, accepted the award. Members of the committee were also on hand.

Lincoln joins our other branches that have received safety awards from numerous safety agencies and contractors that have recognized our safe work performance.

Congratulations to the Lincoln branch and all other branches for demonstrating safe work practices.

University of Nebraska - Physical Sciences Building

Nick Cole— Contract Administrator

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest Lincoln office began construction of the new \$37,000,000 Physical Sciences Building in May, 2008. The project is located on the University of Nebraska's main city campus in Lincoln, just across 16th Street west of the Walter Scott Engineering Center. Commonwealth Electric's low electrical bid was \$2,206,605. The Physical Sciences Building is one of three University of Nebraska Lincoln projects under contract by Commonwealth Electric at this time; the other two being the Sandoz-Abel Dormitory Remodel and Addition and the Whittier Interior Renovation (the former Lincoln Public Schools Whittier Junior High building). Currently at 60% complete, Commonwealth Electric has a crew of 15 electricians on site, with manpower expected to peak at approximately 20. Derek Behne is the General Foreman and is assisted by Foremen Justin Stone and Steve Wilken. Perkins and Will Architects, along with associate architects Bahr, Vermeer and Haecker and KJWW Engineers, designed the Physical Sciences building and Sampson Construction is the general contractor.

The new Physical Sciences Building is a four-story, 124,000 square foot, LEED Certified building and will for the first time, combine physics and astronomy labs, classrooms and offices, currently located in three separate buildings on the main campus; 104 year old Brace Laboratory, 60 year old Ferguson Hall, and 43 year old Behlen Laboratory. Upon completion of Physical Sciences, Brace and Behlen will be remodeled and Ferguson will be demolished. The new facility will have two 150-student lecture halls, four teaching labs and eight classrooms, along with office and lab space for physics and astronomy faculty. Physical Sciences will also share lab space with a new Nano-Sciences Building, which will be connected to the north end of the Physical Sciences Building and will be completed by Fall 2010. Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Roger Kirby, is the UNL Faculty Representative overseeing the project from the academic side and has stated that he is excited that physics and astronomy will now be combined under one roof and with plenty of laboratory and classroom space.

Some interesting electrical facts about this project are: 3000 Ampere, 277/480 Volt main service, 92 panelboards, 650 feet of 480 Volt busway, 50 Variable Frequency Drives, 500 KW Emergency Generator, 3100 feet of Wiremold AL-4000, 2000



AERIAL VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



EAST ELEVATION AT SOUTH ENTRANCE



feet of cable tray, 2100 lighting fixtures, 22 miles of conduit, and 72 miles of cable. Derek spends much of his day in coordination meetings with various disciplines, as the project has been a coordination challenge because of the very limited ceiling spaces and the massive amount of electrical and mechanical systems involved, along with specialized finishes including a large amount of glass.

As with all projects, we pay particular attention to the safety of our employees. The Physical Sciences Building has been a very good job in this area, as we have experienced no lost time due to on the job injuries. Ruben Bera has been on site several times and has interacted a lot with the Sampson Construction safety director to our mutual benefit. Interestingly, Ruben has trained most all of the safety directors and inspectors that we see on most of our projects! Congratulations to Derek and crew for a safe jobsite and their on-going commitment to safety!

ABRAXIS Bioscience NAB Expansion Project

Gene Hayes – Project Manager

Abraxis BioScience is a fully integrated biotechnology company dedicated to delivering progressive therapeutics and core technologies that offer patients and medical professionals safer and more effective treatments for cancer and other critical illnesses. The Abraxis portfolio includes the world's first and only protein-based nanoparticle chemotherapeutic compound (ABRAXANE) which is based on its proprietary tumor targeting system known as the nab™.

In July 2007, Abraxis purchased a 200,000-square-foot specialized manufacturing facility in Phoenix from Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc. Since then, they have worked to expand and upgrade the facility to meet their on-going needs.

In December of 2008 Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest was awarded a \$1.29M contract for the electrical and FA work by CRB Builders for a 42,000 sq ft remodel of the existing facility, which includes control rooms for process control and process monitoring, a mechanical/utility area, thirty new air handling units, four new lyophilizer units and one chiller unit. Our work began on the project in mid-January with the project to be completed in December of this year.

CECM has a working relationship with CRB. Most recently, the Lincoln office completed a similar project expansion with CRB in Lincoln for Pfizer, Inc. This relationship greatly aided the Phoenix office in being able to secure this project. As a matter of fact, Carl Castielle (CRB, MEP Superintendent) arrived to our site last week. He was the MEP Superintendent on the project in Lincoln and said to be sure and say “hi” to Paul Claus and Steve Layton.

Gene Hayes is the Project Manager and Joe Amavisca the Field Superintendent for this project.



Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital - Hastings, Nebraska

Paul Claus, Jr. - Project Administrator

We have started on a new mechanical and electrical tower addition to the Mary Lanning Hospital last August in Hastings, NE. This is a Guaranteed Maximum Price project with Kiewit Building Group Inc. of Omaha, NE. The duration of the project will run into the summer of 2011.

The job is a seven floor addition to an existing hospital that will upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems. There is also an addition and remodel of the Ecology and Pre-operation areas of the hospital on the south end. After we complete the new mechanical and electrical work in the north tower we will demo and remodel several of the existing floors.

Some of the challenges of the project are to try and get all the new panel feeds to old existing panels and systems to fit in the existing building. We were required to do coordination drawings to make sure it will fit. Brad Owen has been doing the drawings and working with Ron Lannin to get it all to fit with the other trades. The existing building was completely full at the beginning of the project. Many coordination meetings with other trades were conducted to get the new addition and remodel to come together with the existing construction. I have never worked with 3-D cad drawings before and it sure is a learning experience. It is really amazing as to the technology that is out there now compared to what use to be.

I have had a real interesting experience with Mary Lanning Hospital. When I got out of the service in 1970, I went to work on the original hospital as an Apprentice. Now to have been all through my career as an electrician and now to be a project administrator on the same hospital, what are the odds? If the cards fall right and I hope they do, I may get to retire off the same job as when I started; just a difference of 40 some years in between.

We are still in Phase 1 of the project, which is the Oncology area and Pre-operation area on the south end of the building. On the north end of the project we have started the new service for the mechanical tower. So far, the job is progressing well and we have a very good crew on site that gets along well and is very productive, a plus for any job. The current crew consists of Ron Lannin, Alan Pendleton, James Haake, Greg Kallenbach, and Tad Nunley. The hospital and Kiewit, both are pleased with the craftsmanship and production that the crew has put into the job. This, in return sure makes my job so much easier. Kiewit has an incentive plan on clean up, every Thursday at 2:30 the job shuts down and everyone does clean up in the area they are working in. This includes all crafts and supervision. The winners get pizza delivered to that crew that has the cleanest area. We have been the winning craft for many of the weeks now. Thanks Guys!!!



Expo Division

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

One of the locations we work at that most don't hear about is our Expo Division. This is located in Phoenix AZ. Expo is also known as Phoenix Convention Center. In addition to the Phoenix Center there is an Expo division in Tucson AZ. Both of the facilities are managed by Dan Shannon. Assisting Dan with administrative duties are Jennifer Willer, LeAnn Whitehead, Tania Kemp, Amy Dolan and Jenny Bryant. The electricians on-site are Jeff Willer, Brian Badet, Arlen Rowland, Fred Moore, Kurt Dinkle, Josh Hammon and Seth Taylor.

Both of these large convention facilities have over 1 million square feet of exhibition halls, meeting rooms, and other facilities to hold conventions, banquets or trade shows. It is our responsibility to provide all customers with power when needed. This is a very elaborate system where the crew needs to run power cords through large pipes from tunnels located below the convention floor. There are hundreds of floor boxes that need power.

Expo works an average of 30,000 man hours per year. The crew works odd hours to provide customers with electrical needs. With this large of a facility, the crews are constantly on the move. In the past 13 years this crew has not had a single accident requiring medical attention. They are constantly pulling power cords and lifting material which exposes them to many different types of injuries; plus the crew is always working around the general public.

Congratulations to Dan and his staff for not only keeping the customer happy but also keeping our employees safe. As with all other branches of Commonwealth Electric, Expo receives safety related information and training. With the new Arc Flash requirements being enforced, Expo employees will all soon be receiving additional training on how they can be prepared and protect themselves. Safety at Expo is another example of the commitment ALL Commonwealth Electric employees continue to demonstrate towards our goal, "Committed to Excellence."



CECM Tucson Gets a New Home

Jay Hoobler – Vice President

The Tucson branch of Commonwealth Electric finally made the move to their new office at the end of January. The 9,800 sq ft building is, by far, larger than the previous 1,840 sq ft location providing plenty of space for future growth. The office expands over 5,100 sq ft with a 3,200 sq ft warehouse along with a 1,500 sq ft mezzanine. The new building is still under-going finishing touches and small additions but is, for the most part, done.



Lincoln Branch Employees

Mike King – Branch Manager

It is with great pleasure I introduce two long time employees whom started in the trade as apprentices many years ago with IBEW Local 265 into new positions within the Lincoln Branch. Jerry VanAmerongen started at CECM in September 1992 and has been employed full time with CECM since June 1997. Jerry has accepted the challenge of heading up the Lincoln Branch telecommunications work. Jerry has obtained training in fire alarm installation and programming. He has also attended SYSTIMAX SCS installation and maintenance training and is certified for installation and approval of these systems. Jerry's duties include bidding, manning and managing the work in which we are successful in acquiring. Doug Amen started at CECM in March 1989 and has been employed full time with CECM since May 1995. Doug is currently working with Larry Lahman in our Technical Services division.

Doug, along with the technical services duties, is heading up various types of work including PLC, VFD, and High-Voltage applications. Doug has also taken on some industrial jobs in which he has had a great deal of effort in pricing/negotiating, manning, and managing the projects. Doug has had PLC training, SYSTIMAX SCS installation and maintenance training. Both have performed various duties for CECM over the years and have done an outstanding job. Please join me in welcoming them to their new positions.



Doug Amen



Jerry VanAmerongen

Des Moines Expands Service Department

Michael Duffy - Service Manager

Commonwealth Electric's Des Moines office has made a few changes recently in the Service Department. In an effort to better serve our customers and promote growth in service, the department has been expanded.

Mike Duffy has retained his position as Service Manager. As reported in a previous newsletter article, Jason Lane was brought in as the Assistant Service Manager to allow Mike to put more focus on his special projects. Allison Petersen, who was previously responsible for accounts payable, has now transitioned into the service department as the Service Coordinator. Chances are, if you call for service, you will speak to Allison, who dispatches all of the service calls to the electricians in the field.

In addition to personnel changes, the service department has recently adopted the "Raving Fan" philosophy, a service approach based on the book "Raving Fans: A Revolutionary Approach to Customer Service". Each member of the serv-

ice department, including all of the service drivers, were asked to read the book and bring their own ideas to the table on how we can better serve our customers. We are now in the process of implementing some of these ideas. It is our mission to provide the best service in the area and create Raving Fans wherever we go.



Allison Petersen