

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2006



Commonwealth Electric Company of the midwest

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Omaha Public Power District – Nebraska City Station

Nick Cole – Project Manager

We are excited to have once again secured work at Omaha Public Power District's Nebraska City Station. Unit 1 was completed in 1980 and generates 646 Megawatts. As many will remember, Commonwealth Electric Company was the electrical contractor for this plant. Unit 2 is currently under construction with scheduled completion in 2008 and will add another 663 Megawatts to the total combined output of this facility.

Although Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is not the electrical contractor on Unit 2, we have been successful in securing three projects to date that can be considered as "support projects" related to the addition of Unit 2.

Maintenance Shop Renovation

We secured this project through a competitive bid process early in the year. We were selected by F&B Constructors, Inc. from Omaha as the electrical contractor, from a pool of four electrical bidders. Greg Derks is the General Foreman on this phased project which is approximately twenty percent complete. Scheduled completion is Summer 2007, and while the phasing is being revised, the project remains on schedule for the target completion. The project consists of complete renovation of the maintenance shop areas and supporting offices, restrooms, shower rooms and electrical/mechanical rooms. Supporting Greg on this project, as well as the other projects on the same site, are Derek Behne, Justin Stone, Kelly Spellman, and John Roland. We have also greatly appreciated the efforts of recently rotated apprentices Brent Engleman and Joel Behrens.

Water Treatment Facility Power Feeders

This project was driven by the construction of Unit 2 and the need to expand the Water Treatment area. We secured this project through



OPPD Nebraska City

the competitive bid process against four other electrical bidders and were awarded the contract by OPPD in July. As Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is the prime contractor on this project, we have the total responsibility of the contract, complete with our subcontractors, who consist of F&B Constructors, Inc. (electrical ductbank excavation and backfill, ductbank concrete installation, excavation, backfill, and preparation for two electrical manholes, and foundation construction/steel erection for a support structure for the new OPPD furnished 3,200 Ampere, 480 Volt, 3 Phase outdoor

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switchgear with enclosure, and two pad transformer pads) and American Concrete Company (two precast concrete electrical manholes). Besides the subcontract work, our work for this project consists of furnishing and installing the primary ductbank raceways only, the furnishing and installation of the secondary ductbanks and conductors (sixteen sets of three 750 KCMIL copper USE/RHW/RHH cables), installation of two OPPD furnished 2,500 KVA pad mount transformers and the outdoor 3,200 Ampere switchgear and enclosure. As this is a fast paced project, the actual construction window will be approximately six weeks, with scheduled substantial completion September 22, 2006. Greg and company are working on this project, along with the Maintenance Shop Renovation.

Unit 2 Stack

The contract for this project was obtained by direct contact and negotiation with Fuellgraf Chimney and Tower from Franklin, Kentucky. Fuellgraf is a signatory electrical engineering and contracting company that specializes only in tall structures throughout the United States. Our contract is cost plus with established labor rates and mark-up. As Fuellgraf is providing all material and major tooling,

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is essentially a labor broker. Our work consists of installing all power, control, and monitoring conduit and cable tray raceways, pulling and terminating cable, and start-up activities. Interestingly, the Unit 2 stack is approximately half the height (300 plus feet) of the Unit 1 stack, immediately to the north, and is a straight stack (no taper). Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest Foreman Dave Filbert and Journeyman John Albers have been working on this project for the past six weeks and report that, after a three week scheduled absence, they will return approximately October 16, 2006 for a few weeks to complete.

We are thankful to have once again secured work at this facility and for this important customer. There will be quite a few support projects yet to be released, we are hopeful that we will secure even more work in the months to come. As we have become accustomed to over the years, we have received many words of praise and admiration from OPPD, F&B Constructors and Fuellgraf Chimney and Tower for the professionalism and craftsmanship displayed by our personnel who represents Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest on site. Good job Greg, Derek, Justin, Dave, John, Kelly, John, Brent, and Joel!

Volunteering Your Time

Michael Price – Vice President

Ron Saf in the Des Moines' office donated his time to help Habitat for Humanity in the renovation of a house. Ron spent part of the day doing general construction work to help a local family in need.

This is just one of the many projects that our employees give back to the community.



Volunteer Project Team Working Morning Shift



House Constructed by Volunteers



Ron Saf - Project Manager

Horseshoe Casino – Council Bluffs, Iowa

Neil Davidson – Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric was selected as the electrical contractor for the Horseshoe Casino expansion project at Bluffs Run. This was an \$85 million dollar expansion project. The project duration was 9 months, and included 68,000-square feet of gaming area, with 36 live game tables and more than 1900 slot and video poker machines. The project also included a 20 table poker room, a bar and entertainment center for live music, the Village Buffet, Jack Binion's Steak House, JB's Grill, a new retail area, and new administration offices.

The main floor of the casino was a cellular electrical deck with 16,000 pre-set boxes for electrical access on two foot centers in all directions. This was installed by Commonwealth as the concrete floor was being poured. Our scope of work also included installing 6" pvc conduit underground for the beverage lines, heat tracing of all kitchen grease lines, fire alarm, voice data, security, and all electrical power.

This was a fast paced and very challenging project. Ed Gable was the Project Superintendent who orchestrated this project



Horseshoe Casino

and made it happen. All the electricians who worked on this project did an excellent job and completed this project on time and within budget. Thanks to everyone who worked on this job and made it a successful project for Commonwealth Electric.

Omaha Branch Finishing Strong at the New Cabela's Store

Dan LeRette – Project Manager

The finishing stages of the new Cabela's store are well underway. The project has a substantial completion date of September 15, 2006 and the general contractor, Weitz Construction Co, has been pushing hard to meet this challenging schedule. Commonwealth electricians will be on hand to provide final fixture aiming and a few "finishing touches" as the owner takes possession of the property and prepares racking and merchandise for the public opening. Cabela's expects to open the retail showroom in late fall of 2006. The La Vista retail store will be Cabela's third store in Nebraska, the company's home state.

The store is a 125,000 square-foot retail showroom and is located on a portion of Southport West, a 137-acre mixed-use real estate development located along Interstate-80 at the Harrison Street interchange.

"A Cabela's showroom is a developers dream," said Dennis Hoth, Managing Partner of Southport West Partners. "Thanks to the partnership we developed with the City of La Vista, we have a great opportunity to attract this world class company. Cabela's showrooms are an exemplary economic development generator and we have made considerable concessions to our business plan to accommodate this tourism-oriented destination retailer."



Outside Cabela's Store

In addition to the Cabela's retail store, the Southport West development also will feature three hotels comprising 600 total guest rooms and an 80,000-square-foot convention center. The 260-suite Embassy Suites Hotel®, 220-room Courtyard® by Marriott®, 120-room Residence Inn® by Marriott® and the anchoring convention center will be managed by Springfield, Mo.-based John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts, LLC, the nation's leading independent builder,

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developer, owner and manager of upscale, full-service hotels, resorts and suites.

The La Vista Cabela's store is built in Cabela's trademark style that evokes the feeling of the outdoors. Cabela's stores are known as top-notch educational and entertainment attractions, mixing a décor of museum-quality animal displays with colorful dioramas, huge aquariums stocked with



Inside Cabela's

native fish and a centerpiece indoor mountain displaying trophy animals interacting in realistic re-creations of their natural habitats.

"I am very proud of this company and feel fortunate that we have an opportunity to add hundreds of new Nebraska employees to the Cabela's family of employees," added Highby. "Southport West will bring top-notch shopping, dining and entertainment to eastern Nebraska, and the Cabela's store will serve as a genuine tourism draw and source of pride for many years to come. A Cabela's showroom of this magnitude in the proposed location will capture millions in beneficial tax dollars that may have otherwise left the State."

Wayne Kalal, Commonwealth Electric's General Forman, has co-ordinated the job-site activities of our sub-contractors, electricians, apprentices and Commonwealth Communications. Electrical Foremen on site are Walt Secord, Arnie Strong, and Don Gerjevic. Wade Belt of Commonwealth Communications has led the low voltage group in the installation of cable trays, data rough-ins, and the fire alarm system. Neil Davidson, senior project manager, and Ed Gable, city superintendent, have provided invaluable guidance to the entire project team from start to finish. Everyone involved with this project is proud of the quality and productivity that has made this a successful endeavor for the Omaha branch and the job can truly be considered a "template" for future commercial projects.

Frontier Harley-Davidson

Bob Philipps – Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Co. was awarded the Frontier Harley-Davidson project in mid May by Sampson Construction Co. and we started work immediately. At the time of this article the project should be close to 80% completed. The jobsite is located at 205 NW 40th street which is just south of I-80 and north of Hwy 6 west of Lincoln. Jason Rieckman was selected as the job superintendent and after moving a few trailers to the jobsite Jason assembled his crew for the project.

The Frontier Harley-Davidson is classified more as a "campus" than anything. The campus consists of (3) separate buildings. The Retail building (and the largest) is a 50,300 sq ft structure complete with a 50' cupola. This building will serve as the main show floor, sales office and service department. On the second level it will have a museum with old Harley motorcycles along with a few trucks & cars from the owner's (Dave Fischer) private collection. The service department consists of (8) service tech areas, wash bays and a large service write up area along with a complete machine shop and loading dock. We are installing a complete Leviton Lighting Control System throughout the building. The second building known as the storage/annex building is a 19,500 sq ft building that will be used as new motorcycle storage and learning center with (2) classrooms / conference rooms for training and seminars. The third building is a 1000 sq ft water service building. This building also houses all of our site lighting power panel and lighting controls.



Superintendent Jason Rieckman and Kris Swanson Pouring Pole Bases

What started out as only an electrical construction project has evolved into a complete, all systems project. Todd Havlat and his low voltage group are now installing the phone/data along with the sound and temperature control systems.

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Helping Jason out on the project is Kirk Cosaert, Jeff DeWitt, Rich Egger, Frank Koenig, Ryan Bader, Jason Krajewski, Dan Kosinski, Chris Kaufman, Josh Griffith, Ross Kaiser, Justin Kemp, Bryan Schlabach, Kris Swanson, Stacey Markel and Troy Bear. Running the work for Todd's group is Jerry VanAmerongen.

As we are in the process of completing these (3) buildings there is talk about expanding the campus to include a restaurant / bar and an old time highway style diner. Harley-Davidson has a reputation on having high standards for the manufacturing and the servicing of their motorcycles; we, at Commonwealth Electric Company, have those same high electrical construction/service standards so this project was a natural fit for both of us.



Frontier – Main Retail Building, South Elevation

Iowa Lutheran Hospital Finishes Renovation of Maternity Floor

Michael Duffy – Project Manager

Graham Construction and Iowa Health System selected Commonwealth Electric in the spring of 2006 to complete the electrical design build portion of the OB Renovation at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. The project had an aggressive design and construction schedule of only 4 months. Electrical design was completed in house by Commonwealth Electric in only a few weeks. Iowa Health System set out to change the look of Lutheran's existing maternity floor to a warm, homey atmosphere for expecting mothers and their families. The result has been the completion of a state of the art facility including new lighting, branch circuit wiring, fire alarm, security access control, telephone and data cabling, and various other health care systems.

“The project really turned out nice. Commonwealth Electric Company's long history with Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Graham Construction and Iowa Health Systems really made this an important job for us to be involved in. We were able to bring all of our services to the table. I am very proud of the results!”

Michael Duffy – Project Manager

The renovation included almost 17,000 square feet of birthing rooms, patient rooms, nursery center, reception area and common nursing areas. Michael Duffy was the project manager, assisted by Dianna Merritt; design was a collaborative effort between Mike Duffy and Jeff Gero with review by Eric Hoge. Keith Marschel was the project foreman. Congratulations to Iowa Lutheran Hospital on a wonderful new facility.



Iowa Lutheran Hospital



Iowa Lutheran Hospital

Lutheran Church of Hope

Ron Saf – Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has been awarded the Lutheran Church of Hope Phase III expansion in Des Moines, Iowa. Lutheran Church of Hope is one of the largest and fastest growing congregations in the Des Moines area.

The Phase III project involves the addition of a 78,000 square foot, 2500 person worship center and light renovation of some of the existing church facility. Our scope of work includes relocation of the existing electrical service, main electrical service entrance equipment, emergency generator and emergency distribution system, exterior and interior building lighting, power and equipment wiring, theatrical lighting, dimming and control systems, fire alarm system, conduit rough-in for telephone, data and sound systems.

I have been a church member for several years, so you can imagine how excited I am to be involved in this project. Although the project was hard bid, the general contractor and many of the trades are represented by members of the congregation. We have all been brought together for this project.

Ron Saf – Project Manager



3D Rendering – View from Northeast

Larson and Larson, the general contractor for this project, and Chris Gunnier with Lutheran Church of Hope have developed a phasing and construction plan to limit disruptions to the church and its on-going activities. The church will continue to hold services in its existing facilities throughout the construction process. Thus far, the church and its congregation have been great to work with.

Ron Saf is Commonwealth's project manager. Nate Findlay and Gary Hagen are the project foremen.

The project is scheduled for completion in early fall 2007.

Michael Price Gets Locked Up!

Michael Price – Vice President

Michael Price participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Lock Up Charity Fund Raiser to benefit the Central Iowa Chapter of MDA. Michael was locked up with bail set at \$2,400.00, which he had to raise in donations for the MDA.



Michael Price: Hardened Criminal

With the help of many generous friends, family, fellow employees, customers and suppliers, Michael was able to raise nearly \$3,000.00 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The donations raised by the event help continue MDA's research of and cures for 43 neuromuscular diseases. The event also helps provide wheel chairs, clinic visits and summer camp for MDA children in the Des Moines area.

A special thank you to all who participated!

National NECA – McGraw Award to David Firestone

The James H. McGraw Award is bestowed on an individual adjudged to have contributed some new or useful idea to the electrical contracting industry or to have performed an industry service over and above normal responsibility to personal progress or the progress of his or her own company.



David Firestone receives McGraw Award

This award was presented to David Firestone to honor him as the driving force in the creation and successful establishment of NECA's Political Leadership Council. In addition to his many years of service to the National agenda; our chapter has greatly benefited from Dave's hard work, insights and commitment to the industry! Dave was presented with this honor at the National Convention in Boston!

Congratulations Dave!