

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2012



**Commonwealth
Electric Company**
of the midwest

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MUD Florence Water Treatment Plant, Site Electrical Improvements Project

Chuck Fintel - Project Engineer

Metropolitan Utilities District's (MUD) Florence Water Treatment Plant is the oldest of its three water treatment plants. The Capital Improvement Plan (20 – 30 year plan) at Florence includes several new buildings, including the new Recarbonation Building. The existing electrical distribution system would not be able to handle the additional loads. The existing distribution system either had to be upgraded or a new system built.

The original Florence electrical distribution system dates back to the 1950's. The existing duct bank was sheared in several areas and the risk of damaged cable was on the rise. Many areas within the conduit were full of water, and the water could not be removed. MUD had concerns in the winter about the duct bank freezing. There were also several areas of the existing duct bank that had asbestos, which made it difficult to maintain the system. Therefore MUD decided to build a new 13kV distribution system.

On 11/22/2011, Commonwealth Omaha was the low prime bidder on the MUD Florence Plant Site Electrical Improvements project.

The existing site electrical distribution system supplied power to process facilities at 2400V. The electrical distribution upgrade includes a distribution system at 13.8kV to existing process facilities as well as new facilities that were under construction at the time of our contract award.

The project scope included the furnishing and installation of the following materials: approximately a mile of concrete encased duct bank, 37,000 feet of 4" PVC (including multiple spares & data conduits), 15 each 6'

x 6' precast manholes (ranging in depth from 7 feet to 14 feet), 20 small fiber optic handholes, 37,000 feet of 350 MCM AL 15kV cable, 1500 feet of #2 AL 15kV cable, 900 feet of 350 MCM CU 15kV cable, loadbreak and deadbreak elbows for the medium voltage cable, 5 each fiberglass bases for MUD furnished S&C pad-mount switches, concrete pads for 5 each MUD furnished ABB pad-mount transformers and a concrete pad for the MUD furnished switchgear building.

There were a number of challenges that we worked through on this project. One of these challenges was MUD's requirement that the depth of each manhole was different. MUD and the engineer (Burns & McDonnell) stipulated that the duct bank conduits all were to drain towards the manholes. Therefore, the entrance and exit points into each manhole were not at the same elevations, which created additional rigging / pulling issues. Our manhole manufacturer was not used to making custom manholes at different depths. It took considerable time and multiple re-submittals to get the manhole submittals correct.

Paul Jaksich was the project foreman through May. Paul got most of the manholes and duct bank installed before he left. He then had to leave and start another project for MUD. Matt Burnham then took the job over. Matt and his crew finished up the duct bank, manholes, cable pulling, terminations, etc. and ran the project through completion. Paul and Matt did a great job in running this project. Jebbers Contracting was our subcontractor for all of the civil work. They also did a great job for us.

CSG International

Mark Ross - Project Manager

In early December of 2011 Commonwealth Electric was awarded the Tenant Improvement project for CSG International. CSG's business model includes revenue management, content management & monetization, customer interaction management and analytics & intelligence. They were located in various buildings in the metro



area and wanted to consolidate everyone in one location, so they were partnering with a builder who would build two three story, 100,000 sq. ft. buildings with a connector link that they could then lease the space. The challenge of this project was the completion date of July 27, 2012.

The general contractor for the project was OPUS Design Build L.L.C., the architect was RNL and MKK Consulting Engineers, Inc. was the MEP designer, all based out of Denver. The "core & shell" work had begun earlier in the year and when we arrived on site both buildings were enclosed and floor slabs had been poured on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Our first task was to set all the floor boxes on the 1st floor in each building so that those floor slabs could be poured. It had been predetermined that the buildings would be finished by floor; 2nd, 3rd then 1st with the second building lagging behind by two weeks. We primarily ran one crew for the most part ramping up to 35 men for six weeks toward the end.

Some of the stats for this project were:

- 1) Over 3,100 light fixtures installed
- 2) 33,000' of ½" EMT conduit installed
98,000' of ¾" EMT conduit installed
18,000' of miscellaneous conduit installed
- 3) 534,000' of #12 wire installed
114,000' of #10 wire installed
12,000' of miscellaneous wire installed
- 4) 300 FP/VAV Box terminations
2- 100KVA UPS installed
1- 400KW Generator and ATS installed

Dan Mohatt was the foreman for this job and did a fantastic job of keeping everyone on task. We were averaging around eight owner changes per month right up to the end. The "core & shell" MEP design team was not the same for the TI work and coordination between the two caused some additional challenges. We got through with some minor incompletions but nothing that kept CSG from moving into the building as scheduled.

Safety News Update

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

This past summer Commonwealth Electric received for the second straight year the “Award of Excellence” for our safety performance during 2011/2012. Our insurance carrier, Gallagher Bassett, recognizes safe work practices and performances. This award is an honor but does not reflect what it takes to get this.

Our work as electricians involves so many aspects and working conditions. There are so many challenges and of course just working with electricity can be dangerous. We need to keep and stay focused at all times. Good job to all.

Working with so many different general contractors and owners also has its challenges. Each contractor seems to have a different set of safety rules that we must follow in addition to our own policies. We are often recognized by the GC's for not only our workmanship but also for maintaining a safe work environment. Other branches have received safety awards from local safety and health agencies.

Recognition is nice but keeping everyone safe will always be our top priority.

In other safety related news, we have been asked to participate in three data based companies that conduct safety prequalification's for perspective customers. This involves a great deal of time and paperwork. The process involves opening our safety records and providing customers with training records and accident rates. Some competitors have chosen not to participate. Currently we have an A rating with all three companies. Potential customers can see our rating and see how safe we are. Bidding jobs is one thing, getting them requires more and more safety.

Congrats to all of us for winning awards and helping us achieve A ratings. These recognitions help us stand out above the rest and allow us to be more competitive. Safety does pay.

2012 Recycling Update

Lyndsey Harms - Lincoln

It's been almost 3 years since the Lincoln and Corporate offices decided to start recycling and help make a positive environmental impact. Between the two offices as of 8/31/12 we have recycled 8,831 lbs. of paper, coffee cups, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and daily office materials; it's an estimated 1,156.9 gallons of gas that we have helped to save! Our actions of recycling have become second nature around the office and warehouse. Since this behavior has become such second nature here in the office, many of our employees have carried this practice to their homes and daily lives. Many of us

have started our own recycling programs with our families, teaching our kids the value of recycling and the great impact it can have.

We also have to extend a special Thank You to Gary, Kelly, Matt and Kevin in the warehouse; they make sure our recycling is out on pick up days and help us execute our efforts.

Grand Island Readiness Center Underway - Columbus Branch

Ruth Chermok – Business Development



Columbus is excited to be “branching out” with our first large project awarded in Grand Island. We are partnered with Sampson Construction to build the Grand Island Readiness Center for the Nebraska National Guard.

This new two-story building, \$21.9 million project is just over 57,000 square feet. Our scope includes all underground, exterior lighting and interior work. The Center will house elements of the Nebraska Army National Guard’s 1-376th Aviation Battalion (Security and Support), 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion and administrative support functions for Aviation Support Facility No. 2, which is on the same site. The readiness center will support approximately 260 full and part-time National Guard Soldiers.

Nebraska Adjutant General Lyons describes the center as a facility all about “community-based service.” Facilities such as the future readiness center “become places where soldiers and their families can come and get access to resources that

they need when their loved ones respond both here and overseas and also become focal points for community outreach.”

Our project team will be led by Jake Gable, Project Manager; Jerry Keller, Superintendent; and Matt Schumacher, as Foreman. The project has been deemed a Code of Excellence project and is designed to feature and showcase to our customers, owners, and the community, the main tenants of our IBEW/NECA workforce; to Exercise Safe and Productive Work Practices, to Perform the Highest Quality and Quantity of Work, to Utilize their Skills and Abilities to the Maximum.

Given our strategy to expand and grow into Central Nebraska this project will be our “lead” project to introduce our company and workmanship to the Grand Island area.