

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2013



**Commonwealth
Electric Company**
of the midwest

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Des Moines Service Department is Growing and on the Move!

Mikayla Jewett - Service Coordinator

There have been some great things happening with the Service Department in Des Moines. A new face is in the office – Brandon North has joined our team as the Des Moines' Service Manager. Brandon brings more than 18 years of experience in the electrical service and construction business. We are excited that Brandon has joined our team!

Our service business is picking up and our crews are busy taking care of projects, large and small, for our customers. We are currently working for the City of Des Moines at one of the housing units completely renovating their elevators, installing a new generator and emergency power system and upgrading the fire alarm system for

the building. This project is a perfect fit for electrician, Mike Ertl. Mike is supported in the office by Service Manager Brandon North and Project Manager Nate Findlay.

Our roots have always been in providing quality electrical service to our customers. We are continuing to make investments in our people, training, safety equipment, labor saving tools and equipment in our service group to better serve our customers.

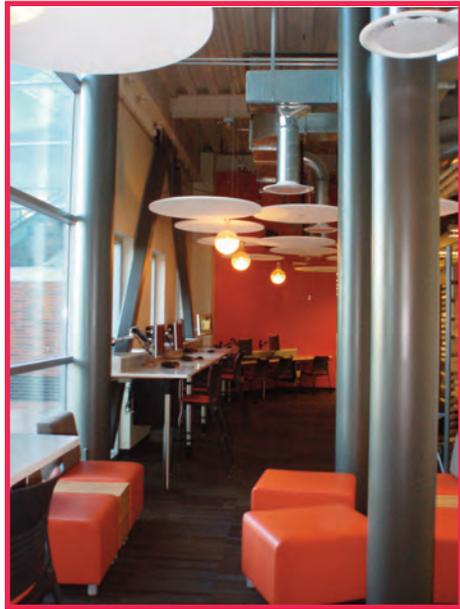


Des Moines Service Manager Brandon North

Peter Kiewit Institute Renovation

Mark Ross - Project Manager

In its first significant renovation since the building was opened in 1999, the Peter Kiewit Institute, on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha,



project.

Every floor of the three story building was affected in one way or another. The renovations ranged from minor changes in a single classroom to entire areas of a floor demolished to be rebuilt to accommodate the new research design. All of the work took place while classes were in session. Special care had to be taken concerning noise, construction staging and debris removal. Commonwealth started work at 6:00 a.m. to be able to use the first three hours of the day for its noisier work.

The building's original design used the "reveal" method, which means that all the work in the ceiling areas was either partially or entirely visible from the floor. On one end of the building the new design was calling for full ACT ceilings but there was a bus duct with disconnects that fed the 120 volt panels (12 of them) for that end of the building. The State Electrical Inspector told us that we would have to leave out the ceiling tiles that are below the disconnects so that they had clear access. We suggested to Kiewit and the University that we install an 800 amp distribution panel fed from the bus duct and use it to feed all of the 120 volt panels and eliminate the need for the rest of the bus duct

and disconnects. They approved our idea and we proceeded with the distribution panel and they were able to have all the ceiling tiles in place. As with all renovation projects there were other challenges but through the cooperative efforts of Kiewit, the University and Commonwealth they were all worked out.

The project started out as a \$1.2 million project and will end up around \$1.7 million, being split about 50/50 between electrical and low voltage. The low voltage included phone/data, fire alarm, access control, video surveillance and digital signage. When the University gave us the information for the equipment to purchase for the digital signage we priced it out and then wanted to sit down with the University's IT person to discuss the usage intent. After seeing how they wanted to use the digital signs, Chris Gall submitted a proposal to them using a Windows© based tablet that would work off of their existing Wi-Fi network. We worked with Hempel Sheet Metal Works to design the enclosure. The University was pleased with our proposal and accepted it saving between \$15-20 thousand. They are also looking at adopting this digital sign and enclosure as their campus standard.

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Except for an occasional push we were able to do this project with four electricians. Bob Bohling was our foreman with Andrew Chapman, John Pettis and Dan Gonzales filling out the crew. Dan Maca and Clinton Stoffer managed the low voltage work with John Bethers and Mark Ragland heading up things in the field.

COLUMBUS OFFICE ON THE MOVE.....

Ruth Chermok - Business Development

The Columbus Telegram featured a front page story on our Columbus Branch and on the recent move to expanded facilities at the former National Guard Armory. The Commodores (a business group of the Chamber) welcomed Commonwealth to their new site, and presented a Progress Award to Jake Gable, Branch Manager.



Columbus Team

A “wire” cutting ceremony was held to officially welcome Columbus to the new location. The former Armory is a spacious 14,000 square foot facility on 26th Avenue. The former wide open space was sectioned off with an interior corridor around existing offices, to create the interior office space. The balance of the facility is a warehouse with racking, two overhead garage doors and ample space to unload vehicles and store materials. A very organized and fenced-in lay-down yard is immediately outside the warehouse.

The space will allow Commonwealth Electric of Columbus to continue to grow and expand, and will serve the area well for many years to come. The Commodore Group was impressed with the facility and spent some time touring, and learning about the specific services that the CECM team can provide to their organizations. Business leaders were very surprised to learn that we have 65 team members within our community and surrounding area, and were very impressed with the facility.

In addition to explaining our services, and introducing our team, Jake Gable gave an outline of our customer base and history of our expansion. Senior Vice President, Gary



Wire cutting ceremony

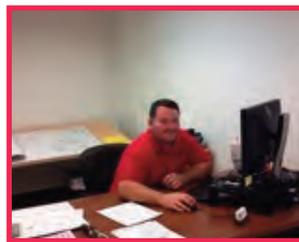
Demmel, also spoke about the reasons for our expansion into this market several years ago.

The connection to the former Armory was capped up with a presentation of two awards honoring the company for its support of employees in the National Guard and Reserve.

Daryl Schrunk, a representative of the Nebraska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presented Jake with the Freedom and Patriot awards, which are given annually by the Department of Defense to those who make it easier for employee-soldiers to serve the country.

SEAN MARTYS - HONORED AS APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Ruth Chermok - Business Development



Commonwealth Columbus, Sean Martys, was honored as the NECA/IBEW #22 Apprentice of the Year. Sean just completed his five-year apprenticeship program and now serves on the Commonwealth Columbus team as Assistant Project Manager.

Sean’s organizational and “people” skills were recognized early on upon his acceptance into the apprenticeship program. He has always been one of the leaders, and gives generously of his time to volunteer for activities related to the training center, Commonwealth community service activities (United Way and Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity) to name a few, and other team building and service events.

His “can do” attitude, and determined and serious pursuit of his education in the electrical industry was recognized with this very special award. The Apprentice of the Year was selected from within all graduating candidates in the Omaha and Columbus training centers. Sean’s honor recognizes his special skills and attitude within a group of very talented young people. The reliability and responsibility that Sean demonstrates in his studies and his work life are exceptional. He can be counted on to do his very best, no matter the task that is assigned to him.

“If you want something done and done right – ask Martys”.....and Commonwealth is proud to have him on our team!

Safety 2013

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

We are in the middle of another safe year at Commonwealth Electric. Since January, we have had just a few minor incidents. Some say accidents are just the nature of our job, we at Commonwealth Electric say different. Just because we are considered a high hazardous job doesn't mean we have to accept accidents. All branches have demonstrated their commitment to job site safety and accidents are not a part of our way of doing things.

In other safety related news:

Omaha again won a top safety award from the local safety and health organization. This is the 7th year in a row they have won this award. Although the award was received in Omaha, the award is a reflection of every branch and all employees.

Commonwealth electric just completed our risk assessment conducted by our insurance carrier. This assessment evaluates our safety program and site safety practices. This process is lengthy and time consuming. All of our safety programs are reviewed and checked for compliance. Once the paperwork is completed, it's off to the work site to see if we actually do what we say we do in writing. Once on the site everything is gone through. PPE, posters, first aid kits and safe

work practices. This includes electrical practices such as lockout/tagout. All gang boxes are checked for anything that could become potential hazards. The site received an A rating. When everything was all finished, Commonwealth Electric received an excellent score. This is a compliment to all employees and our commitment to job site safety.

We are in the process of getting all employees updated on the new GHS. This standard takes affect this year and all employees must be trained on the new Global Harmonization Standard. This included new pictogram pictures on how to identify hazardous chemicals.

Rigging and material handling are issues that must be addressed. We are prepared to provide the necessary training to ensure we are up-to-date with all required training.

As mentioned before, training and educating our employees are top priority. Well trained and informed electricians are the key to our success. We are committed to keeping our employees safe.

Harrah's Casino Renovation, Council Bluffs IA

Edgar Tello - Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric of Omaha was awarded the Harrah's Casino Renovation located in Council Bluffs, IA. The demoing of the existing space began in January of 2013 and with a final completion date on July 6th 2013.

Since 1996, the casino was originally on a riverboat known as the Kanessville Queen located on the Missouri River. After 17 years, Harrah's decided to relocate the casino on land and renovate the existing building. Several meeting rooms and banquet rooms were demoed and 25,000 sq. ft. of space was renovated to what is presently the casino.

A complete raised floor system was added to the space and allowed us to install power and data underneath for the 600 slot machines. We installed a new 1000A switchboard, 500kw generator and ATS were installed for the new casino. Throughout the remodeled space, there is approximately 2,200' of purple LED installed in the ceiling covers. The majority of the existing can lights remained in place and replaced with new LED lamps.

Commonwealth Communications was in charge of installing surveillance camera cabling, surveillance cameras, voice/data cabling, POS cabling, slot data cabling, security door contacts and cabling, digital TV cabling, audio microphone cabling, fire alarm system cabling and devices. Chris Gall and Clinton Stoffer spent a considerable amount of time meeting with the Harrah's surveillance team prior to contracts being signed assisting the owners with IP camera options. Clinton did some research and brought in cameras to demonstrate to the owners during this pre-construction phase.

The most critical system we installed were the 300 surveillance cameras which had to be commissioned prior to the casino opening the doors. The 300 fixed/ptz cameras were installed, labeled, tested and aimed to meet the Iowa Gaming Commissioning Tests 3 days prior to opening with no recorded violations.

The job couldn't have gone any better. We had the right crew and foremen for the job. Keith Burnham did an excellent job of making sure tasks and priorities were set and executed, thus ending the job on a good note. CECM was able to complete all low voltage systems on this project with six technicians at maximum and only four technicians for much of the project. JJ Marsh was the foreman and Randy Dillon ran a small crew when multiple activities were necessary.



University of Nebraska

Ken Morrison Life Sciences Research Center Addition

Nick L. Cole - Manager, Construction Services

The existing 68,741 square foot Ken Morrison Life Sciences Research Center on the University of Nebraska East Campus was built in 2008. When constructed it provided a home for the Nebraska Center for Virology, which had previously been scattered across several UNL City Campus and East Campus locations.

In 2009 UNL was awarded 8 million in federal funds from the National Institutes of Health to construct a 26,000 square foot expansion to the Ken Morrison Life Sciences Research Center. The funding from the NIH National Center for Research Resources is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Because of the federal funding, this project falls under the provisions of the US Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Act. The new addition is three levels with an electrical/mechanical penthouse and consists primarily of laboratory and research space, with one large auditorium.



UNL Rendering

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest was awarded the electrical subcontract by the low general contractor, Lund-Ross Constructors from Omaha. CECM foreman Kris began the project in August 2012. Because of the formed and poured in place floors and columns, along with many weather delays this past winter, the project was slow to develop. During the winter months, our crew prefabricated raceway systems and variable frequency drive backboards, which were transported to the project for placement this spring. We feel strongly that the prefabrication process saved time and is something that will be utilized and expanded in future projects. The distribution panelboards for both the 1000A normal power and 800A emergency power, along with associated subdistribution equipment, are located in the Penthouse in the new addition.

Because this equipment feeds from existing service equipment in the basement of the existing building, Kris and crew have redesigned the routing for the feeders, resulting in a more cost effective installation. Currently, our crews are nearing completing of raceway rough-in and are pulling branch circuits. Major equipment is set and distribution feeders are pulled. Our crew has stabilized in the last several months at six. We envision that this will likely be our peak manpower. The project is currently scheduled for completion the end of July 2013.

We appreciate Corporate Safety Director Ruben Bera for helping us closely monitor our exposure to safety hazards on the project. Because of his efforts and the efforts and awareness of our crew, to date we have had a zero injury-zero time lost project. Congratulations to Kris and crew for their efforts to make this a successful project!



Prefab VFD Backboard



Prefab Raceway System

Iowa Clinic Arrives in Ankeny, Iowa

Mark Ramsey - Project Manager



Data Racks Installed

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is nearing completion of the new Iowa Clinic Medical Center in Ankeny. The two story 52,000 square foot building will provide multiple medical services, including mammography, ultrasound, X-Ray, MRI and CT imaging. This facility will also have a physical therapy room,

conference rooms and offices, along with several exam rooms. Project Manager

Mark Ramsey worked hand in hand with the CECM's Engineering Department, Ryan Companies, OPN Architects and the owners on this design build project, which included 480 volt power distribution, LED lighting and low voltage automatic lighting control.

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest also installed the voice/data cabling and wire management along with an addressable fire alarm system. Foremen Mike Van Der Hart and Gary Hagen provided the onsite leadership and coordination that was necessary to complete the project on schedule.



Ankeny Rendering