

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2010



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Safety Award

Ruben J. Bera – Corporate Safety Director

At a recent insurance update meeting, Commonwealth Electric was awarded a plaque for our safety achievements for the year 2009/2010. Our insurance policy has goals all members must achieve in order to receive these awards. This is the 7th year in a row we have received this plaque.

As I have mentioned time and time again, the goal of all management and employees is to provide everyone a safe work environment. Awards are nice to receive but making sure employees are safe is now and will always be our number one goal.

There are many good things happening in our safety environment. We have been training employees on the requirements of 70E arc flash. 70E is being implemented by many of our customers. It's important to our customers that we not only provide them with skilled craftsman but also electricians who are trained and in compliance with

NFPA 70E. Every now and then you'll hear or read about an electrical arc flash accident. The results of these accidents can be costly and many times a death is the end result. We, at Commonwealth Electric, have invested time and resources to ensure we train and equip our qualified electricians. This new standard is not going away and more and more business owners will be doing arc flash studies to ensure they are in compliance. Having our workers trained in the safety requirements of 70E gives us a competitive edge.

There are other OSHA changes coming that will affect us all. We will do our part to make sure our employees are given the latest information to help them stay safe. Information will be coming out to your job sites. We stand by our motto that an informed electrician is a safe electrician.

Think Smart/Work Safe

Agrium's 10-34-0 Liquid Fertilizer Load out Project

Doug Amen - Technical Services Manager

The Agrium plant in Beatrice was built in the mid 1960's for the production of dry nitrogen fertilizer. The original facility had an Acid Plant, a 20,000 ton Anhydrous Ammonia Holding Tank, Granulation Building, Boiler House and Dry Nitrogen Holding Facility's.

In 2005, after the bombing in Oklahoma (which was a dry fertilizer bomb) the Beatrice plant stopped making dry fertilizer and was used as a pumping station for anhydrous ammonia and for storage of Pot Ash, Urea and Polymer Coated Nitrogen.

Agrium has now found a cost effective method to produce and distribute to wholesale facility's a new

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Agrium Plant, Beatrice NE

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product for the Beatrice Plant, Liquid Fertilizer 10-34-0. The liquid fertilizer is produced using a portable reactor and combining NH₃, phosphoric acid and water. From the portable reactor the 10-34-0 is pumped to a 10,000 ton storage tank. Once in the tank, the liquid is continually agitated in the holding tank until the liquid fertilizer is sold. After the fertilizer is sold, it is transported by truck to wholesale facilities then resold primarily to farmers and used for crop production.

Agrium Beatrice contacted Commonwealth Electric in early August to help with the design build of the electrical for the tank agitation and truck loading system. The electrical for the tank agitation included the installation of VFD's and the sub-

sequent controls required to continually striate the 10-34-0. When called for at the truck load station, the fertilizer is pumped 750 feet to liquid fertilizer semi-trailers through a series of meters and pressure transmitters that measure the product weight by which it is sold. The meters then send 4-20ma signals to VFD's and actuators to control the amount of product loaded in the trailers.

Currently Agrium is producing and selling its new product as James Henshaw, Jay Wells, Todd Fluent and Rick Bradley put the final touches on what has been a fast paced but very rewarding project.

Methodist Medical Office Building

Troy Deats - Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of Omaha has recently completed a contract with MCL Construction for a 3 story medical office building (MOB) and basement parking garage that adjoins the new Methodist Women's Hospital at 192nd and West Dodge Road. Methodist Women's 38 acre campus now includes this 192,000sf state of the art facility that will provide medical support and acute services for the main hospital.

CECM's scope of work for this project included all electrical systems and a new 3000Amp service to the building. Sprinkled throughout the project you will find elaborate lighting control systems and unique indirect lighting concepts. Typical for most projects in today's market, Methodist Women's MOB was awarded to CECM through the hard bid process and was successfully completed on time and budget.

One of the most interesting facts about this project is that CECM coordinated all above ceiling trades with design drawings in our new Building Information Modeling (BIM) software. CECM's detailed coordination effort from both our Field and Engineering Department was essential due to major ceiling height constraints throughout the entire structure. CECM also utilized various prefabricated items in the field such as back boxes with terminated devices to help speed up installation. All of the prefabricated items were built in house in our new Omaha prefab shop, managed by our Engineering team and our Omaha City Superintendent, Ed Gable.

I would like to give special thanks to our Engineering team, Eric Hoge, Doug Coleman, Tammy Rico and City Superintendent Ed Gable for all of their hard work and dedication.

In the field, our General Foreman was Matt Burnham and our site Foreman was Dan Mohatt. Both Matt and Dan's combined efforts proactively kept the project on track. Matt's dedication to progress on site was evident each week. He consistently thought outside the box and discovered new ways to save time in the field. A special thanks to Matt, Dan and all of the crew in the field that made this project a huge success.

Lastly, I would like to thank Cheryl Keyes, April Samuelson and Fay Klock for their hard work in the office. Their administrative support is a key component and is rarely recognized. Thanks again!



Methodist Medical Office Building

Summer of 2010 in Lincoln, NE

Jerry VanAmerongen - Telecommunications Manager

The summer of 2010 has turned out to be one of our busiest times yet. At one point we had 19 low voltage technicians and apprentices working with us. We had two larger projects that we have been working on and are now finished or just finishing up.

The first of which was for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. We have been working under our unit price agreement on a project at the stadium. They have done a complete makeover on the west side, with new fiber backbone to four existing closets and new voice and data cables to two newly renovated areas. This project has had its challenges with the fact that it is behind schedule (due to no fault of ours) and the Big Red football season is upon us. We have been working weekends (Sundays) around the home football games and longer hours during the week to try and get this completed. This work is being overseen by Todd Starkey.

Along with our unit price agreement with UNL, we have been very busy with the adds, moves, and changes that come along with a campus this large. We are now taking somewhere between 95% and 98% of ALL the voice and data requests that come through the IT Department. Roger Rezac is the man who takes care of the majority of these.

The second decent size project that we did this summer was getting the Nebraska State Fair up and running. For the last 107 years, the fair had been here in Lincoln. This is the inaugural year for it in Grand Island. We installed an all new fiber and copper structured system throughout the seven new buildings. We had to tie everything together with the existing Fonner Park offices and the Event Center. We worked very closely with Olsson Associates (Todd Havlat) to get this project completed in time. They were very late in releasing this project and we only had seven weeks to complete it. Ron Dodd was the site superintendent on the project and he had a crew of six men working, six and sometimes seven days a week, ten hours a day. We completed this project on the same day that the fair had its grand opening. Everyone involved was very pleased with the work that we performed and we are expecting to be returning out there to help make next year's fair even bigger and better. The fair board is planning on building one more



Main Distribution Frame for Nebraska State Fair

Expo building and since they now have the experience of one year under their belt, I would say that there are things that they would want to add or move to make life even easier.

We have consistent work at St. Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center and all of their clinics around the area. We are working closely with the IT Department in helping design/schedule the installation of new wireless access points in all of CHI facilities around our area (Central and Northern Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa). Currently we are in the final phase of remodeling the Labor and Delivery floor and are also working on starting the new remodel in the Cardiology area.

Our service work has been steady for most of the summer with our normal customers and a few new ones. We have been doing a lot more work for the government at the Federal Building and at the National Guard, as of late, and I hope to keep this moving forward.

We are currently down to our regular twelve men working and we are staying busy for now. Hopefully this fall and winter things will pick up and we can have a great end to 2010! Thanks again guys, and KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



**2010 Start! Heart Walk
Co-Chairs**

Douglas Anderson
Sr. Vice President &
General Counsel
MidAmerican Energy

Clay Cox
Retired

**2010 Start! Heart Walk
Executive Committee**

Julian Caldwell
Director of Strategic
Initiatives IT
Union Pacific

John Ewing, Jr.
Douglas County Treasurer
Douglas County

Jeff Ferris
President of International
Division
infoGROUP

Karla Gochenour
Vice President of
Human Resources
Woodmen of the World

Mike Homa
President
Mutual of Omaha Bank

Gary Honts
Chief Executive Officer
Creighton University
Medical Center

Cliff Karthaus
Regional Managing
Director
Principal Life Insurance

Matthew Milam
Vice President
United Healthcare Group

Mary Kay Miller
Vice President of
Regulatory & Government
Affairs
Northern Natural Gas

Dave Wise
Vice President of
Community Banking
US Bank

July 2010

Gary Demmel
Senior Vice President
Commonwealth Electric and Communications
4225 S 89 St
Omaha, NE 68127-1503

Dear Gary,

Thank you for supporting the American Heart Association's 2010 Omaha-Council Bluffs Start! Heart Walk. Commonwealth's involvement was integral to the success of this event. With Commonwealth's help, we were able to raise over \$530,000 to continue our mission of fighting cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Thank you for allowing your employees to participate in this event. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge your employee who went above and beyond the call of duty. The individual below was a "Top Walker," meaning she **raised over \$500** for the American Heart Association's Start! Heart Walk on Saturday, May 15th.

April Samuelson

Because of Commonwealth's participation, we can continue to save lives. Your efforts help us to continue to do the following:

- Fund the research that translates into many more breakthroughs in our continuing fight against the #1 killer, Heart Disease and the #3 killer, Stroke.
- Continue ongoing education for healthcare professionals.
- Continue advocacy for legislative changes.
- Further educate the public to make the right quality of life decisions so that they can enjoy a long and healthy life with friends and family.

We extend our **heart felt thanks** to you and your entire organization for partnering with us on the Start! Heart Walk. Please let us know if we can do anything to help you. We truly look forward to working with you again in 2011!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Redmond
Jennifer Redmond
Metro Executive Director

Haley Armstrong
Haley Armstrong
Sr. Heart Walk Director

Jodi Langhorst
Jodi Langhorst
Heart Walk Director



April Samuelson - "Top Walker"

Tucson VA Hospital Goes Solar

Jay Hoobler - Vice President

Commonwealth Electric has teamed up with REC Solar on a design build project to install carport mounted photovoltaic arrays at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson. The installation will encompass seven different sites on the hospital campus and will provide 2.9 MW of electrical generating capacity. Once completed the installation will be the largest carport solar generating system in the country.



The carport solar project is the second solar energy project that CECM has teamed up on with REC Solar at the Tucson VA Hospital. This new project comes on the heels of the recently completed 302 kW single-axis, tracker system that follows the sun during the day for maximum efficiency. This system, which was completed in May, is the first of its kind at a VA facility nationwide.

Both projects are a result of the Veterans' Affairs commitment to utilizing renewable energy sources at their facilities across the country. The combined PV systems will significantly offset the energy demand from the local utility grid for the hospital's 900,000 square foot facility which uses up to 5,200,000 kWh annually. The carport project, estimated at \$14 million, is expected to pay for itself in energy savings over a period of 10 to 13 years. The solar tracker project, at a cost of \$1.35 million, has payback period of approximately 10 years based on information provided by REC Solar.

REC Solar is the prime contractor on the project and they will be providing the design and installation of the PV systems along with the associated DC wiring. They will also install the inverters which convert the DC power generated by the photovoltaic panels into AC power that can be tied into the hospital's distribution system. Commonwealth's responsibility on this project will be the design and installation of the medium voltage distribution system along with the demolition of the existing parking lot lighting and installation of the new lighting that

VA Solar Tracker System

will be installed on the underside of the parking canopies. Construction of the steel shade canopies that will support the solar arrays will be subcontracted out to a steel subcontractor.

Presently the project is still in the design phase. The project is scheduled to start construction in the middle of October with completion expected to take place in the spring of 2011.

Commonwealth Electric was selected for participation in this project based on our experience and our reputation for quality along with our ability to provide timely budgeting information that is required in the design-build bidding process.

Tony Doar was our field superintendent for the successful completion of the solar tracker project. The carport project will require multiple sites being constructed simultaneously and will involve a team effort with multiple foremen in order to complete this fast track project.

Commonwealth is excited to be associated with yet another project for the Veteran's Administration and their commitment to the use of renewable energy resources.

A Snapshot of a Day in Columbus

Ruth Chermok - Business Development

Gary Demmel and I received a wonderful email recently from Branch Manager, Steve Kaup, reflecting on how far we have come in recent months with expanding our business throughout the Columbus area! Steve reported that “as he was running from job to job, he realized how many guys and projects we have going outside of ADM”.

Kurt Hellbusch and Dru Johnk continue to do a great job at the Albion County Courthouse and we are getting very positive feedback from our work on that remodel job.

Mat Connelly was working on a Norfolk Schools project, while Matt Schumacher was busy at Madison Public Schools.

Kris Perry and Sean Martys continue to keep up with a very interesting project at Katana Summit and have earned high praise from the Katana team.

Ron Kershaw was performing service work, while Jamey Kershaw and Landon Braithwait were working on a contract project for the new Leigh Dam campsites.

Karl Kolowski and Brian Kiene were working on a time and material project for B D Medical, while the team of AJ VanWinkle, Clint Reinecke, and Matt Schumacher worked on our contract project there.

Our service team, of Jared and John Kaup were both out on important service work that day. In addition, Steve was running between sites, coordinating ADM work, and bidding some additional work for Cargill, Columbus.

Our team was 35 strong this same day at the ADM facility. So, although we are challenged to continue to find new work and insure a backlog for the coming fall and winter, our “snapshot of the day” was very encouraging for a branch of our size.

Our Columbus team is involved in so many great community events; and we recently were featured sponsors of the Columbus Days activities, thanks to the LMCC. We received many compliments and recognition for CECM participation in lighting the beer tent at the Square – to our entry in the parade. Sean, Levi, Matt, Steve and many others built our own float this year.



Commonwealth Electric, the Next Generation of Electrical Contractors, featured the cutest kids in the parade – and our little logo hard hats were a great hit and spread throughout the community as they were handed to kids on the parade route! (along with candy!!)