

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Winter 2018/2019



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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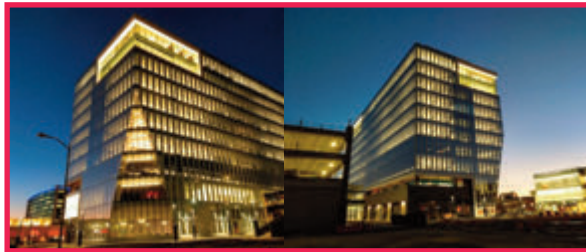
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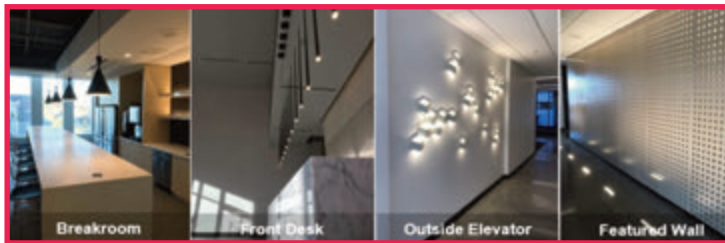
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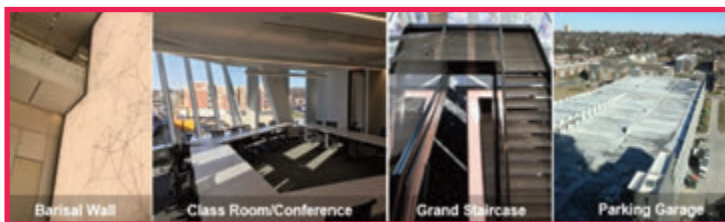


Omaha, NE — Commonwealth Electric was selected to be the electrical contractor for the new corporate office for HDR. The Developer for this project was Noddle Companies, and we were selected by the general contractor, Kiewit Building Group, to work on this project. The new corporate office building is now located at 67th and Frances Street, in the newly developed Aksarben Village in mid-town, Omaha.



The 10-story, 254,721 sq. ft. headquarters for HDR houses up to 1150 employees. In addition to the headquarters building, HDR built an adjacent parking garage, consisting

of over 1,090 parking stalls with 6 ground-floor retail bays, with the possibility of a food court being added in the future. HDR designed their own building to include a state of the art, full-building wireless lighting control system. The design of the building features unique LED lighting fixtures throughout the building.



The Project Managers on this job were John Randall and Edgar Tello. Every successful project needs a strong team to carry out the expectations of our customer. Other members of our team were: General Foremen team members of Matt Burnham & Ryan Roetman, with support from our Foremen Staff of: Dan Gonzalez, John Pettis, Ralph Maynes and Scott Smith.



Our Data Team was also involved with this project. They were given

the task of delivering the fire alarm system and security turn-stiles. The Data Team was overseen by Dan Maca, Project Manager. The fire alarm system work was supported by Stuart Wilson, Foreman & Hogan Jacobs, Apprentice. The security turn-stiles work was performed by Brian Eledge, Foreman.

Our pre-fab team also played a big part in the success of the new HDR Headquarters Building. Each member of our team was key in helping make this job run smooth during the pre-construction and during-construction phases of the project. Our team showed its

Continued on page 2

effectiveness through good communication, structured planning meetings and coordinated on-site visits. Our Project Managers, John Randall and Edgar Tello coordinated their efforts with our Pre-Fab Manager, Troy Savich and his team; while Marijo Bosiljevac, Electrical Designer, supported this project with the BIM (Building Information Modeling) efforts of her team. (See below the details of the BIM Technology, in comparison to the actual Control Room)

All members of the Commonwealth Electric HDR Project, worked as a unified team, focused on the mission of delivering a good product for our customer, giving support to our electricians in the field, and successfully delivering an on-time and under-budget project. We were proud to be part of this mid-town revitalization project.



“If you surround yourself with great people, you have to let them run and you’ll be surprised just how little they will need to be ran. This job was proof of that. Great teams execute like a team. Just let them run.” - John Randall, Project Manager

Des Moines Branch Welcomes New Administrative Staff Members

Lisa Steenhoek - Business Office Manager



Danielle Thompson,
Service Coordinator

The Des Moines location is excited to announce the addition of two new faces to the administrative team. Danielle Thompson, joined Commonwealth in July as a Service Coordinator. She primarily assists Jeff Hoover, our service department manager and Jeff Hutchison, our assistant service department manager. Danielle is a graduate from AIB. In Danielle’s spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband, Jesse, and horseback riding.

Dylan Berkey joined Commonwealth as an Accountant in October. Dylan has a dual role assisting Lisa Steenhoek with accounts payable and processing service billings. Dylan is a graduate of Simpson College. In Dylan’s spare time he enjoys anything sports related. He currently volunteers his time coaching high school basketball and football. Dylan is also preparing for his upcoming wedding in April.



Dylan Berkey, Accountant

Danielle and Dylan have both been great additions to our administrative services team. Welcome aboard!

Central Nebraska Service Coordinator

MaLinda Christensen - Office Manager

Central Nebraska has welcomed a new Service Coordinator, Allison Hast. Allison joined our team in October 2018. She will assist Andy and Clayton in scheduling service calls and service billing, along with a variety of office duties. Allison is a native of Columbus, NE where she obtained her business degree at Central Community College. She has spent the last 12 years of her career as a Sales Specialist in the cable industry. She is a proud mother of two children, her son (Caleb) and daughter (Raeya).



Allison Hast, Service Coordinator

Taking Care of Our Customer

Ruben J. Bera - Corporate Safety Director

Safety on the job involves many aspects. Taking care of our people is a priority. There are many things to focus on. The work environment, the other trades and most important the task at hand. Over the years Commonwealth has demonstrated to our customers that we not only provide a quality product, but a product and service done right the first time and done safely. Nothing is overlooked. Staying sharp and keeping safety at the forefront is critical in the electrical industry.

Recently I received an email from one of our customer's safety director. He wanted me to know that our employee, AJ VanWinkle spotted a couple potential serious electrical hazards at their facility.

Per our customer, *“Personally, I expect AJ to do what he did because he's a professional, it's cold outside, somewhat dirty conditions he is working in, and it's not his plant or company so it sure would be easy for him to simply walk right by like he didn't notice. Just letting you know I appreciate what he is doing for us”.*

What AJ spotted was a live, exposed 4160 wires to a motor. The customer was informed of this. If someone touched it or tried to move the wire, it could have been a disaster.

AJ's actions reflect the professionalism our employees demonstrate to our customers. It's what makes us stand out from the competitors. Great job AJ.

Commonwealth Electric Safety - We Sell It, Promote it, Proud of it!



AJ VanWinkle –
Making Commonwealth Proud

Holiday Spirit

Tanya Wegner - Office Manager



The Central Nebraska Team got into the holiday spirit this year with tying bells for the North Pole Express event in Kearney. The event runs eleven nights, selling over 2,800 tickets. This is the 9th year of the event and sells out each year.

During the ride, families board and listen to the story of the Polar Express with hot chocolate and a cookie. When families arrive at the North Pole, Santa greets them, and each child is given a bell. Commonwealth stepped up and tied over 1,400 bells for the event. Trust me, the bells are a big deal! Children melt down over lost bells because they are the first gift of the season from Santa. Now, Clayton really can say he made a difference in a child's life and mean it! Ha! In all seriousness, the crew in Kearney, spouses and kids really stepped up and did an awesome job!

If you need a group that is dedicated to tying one on, I am talking about bells, we are your group!

35th Annual Blank Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and Lights

Ashley Huinker - Project Coordinator

For the 6th straight year, Commonwealth Des Moines sponsored the annual Blank Children's Hospital's Festival of Trees and Lights fundraising event in Des Moines. Over 75 Commonwealth employees donated their time and hard work during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend to help unload crates, setup the electric train, assemble over 80 Christmas trees and put up holiday decorations. As always, at the end of Festival, we had our volunteers come back to help with tearing down, repacking the crates and loading the 85 Christmas trees for delivery.

Thousands of dollars were raised during this year's Festival to support the Child Life Program and the Center for Advocacy & Outreach at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. Because of another record breaking year, in its 35-year history, more than \$10 million has been raised to help children and families at Blank Children's. Commonwealth has a long history with Unity Point Health and Blank Children's Hospital. We were thrilled to be part of the event again this year and look forward to the many more years of service to Unity Point and Blank Children's Hospital.

A big thank you to all the Commonwealth employees and their families that volunteered for this very special and worthwhile event. A special thank you to Michael Duffy for coordinating our efforts, to Trevor Schmidt for leading the train crew, Nathan Findlay and his loading dock crew and Dianna Merritt for keeping us all on track! Great job everyone!



Festival of Trees and Lights set-up crew



Festival tree decorated by Commonwealth employees, Dianna Merritt and Ashley Huinker

Kearney Office Relocation

Tanya Wegner - Office Manager

We are excited to announce the Kearney Branch will be moving to a new location located on the east side of Kearney. We have spent the previous six years in a great location south of downtown but have outgrown our space. The little quirks of the building will be missed like the flickering lights, never mind we are a successful group of electricians! We strive in 'Customer first, the office can wait!' The train that is going by every ten to fifteen minutes (not that I am counting) will not be missed as the new office is right across from the train tracks, just different area. We are creatures of habit here in Central Nebraska.

We will be located on Highway 30 giving Commonwealth Electric some new visibility. The new office will house a larger shop area with some room for growth. From office space to kitchenette to men's and women's restrooms, we are very excited for our new home! The space also has the opportunity for future growth. The build out has been a company effort from start to finish. Our crew has been wonderful helping and making this project great. Have I mentioned I get my own bathroom? The lone female here, it really is the little things you appreciate.

Des Moines Apprentices Competes in Ideal National Championship

Danielle Thompson - Service Coordinator



Alec Perkins, CECM 5th year apprentice

In September, the Des Moines Electrical Apprenticeship hosted a qualifying event for the Ideal National Championship, a highly charged, no-holds barred competition designed to discover the best in class among professionals and students/apprentices in the electrical field. This event was open to all apprentice and journeyman electricians in the Des Moines Local IBEW 347. Approximately 50 electricians competed in the qualifying event; all vying for a chance to go to the National Championship competition in Orlando, Florida in December. Only one apprentice and one journeyman from each state gets the opportunity to compete in the Championship.

We are proud to announce that Alec Perkins, a 5th year apprentice from the Des Moines Commonwealth location, competed in the Des Moines local qualifying event and won the apprentice category; advancing to the National Championship! At the Championship competition, Alec competed against some of the best electricians from the United States and Canada. These individual competitions were judged on code requirements, speed, quality, craftsmanship, and functionality. Alec

made it to the top six of his division, where he then placed 4th overall.

When asked what he thought about the competition, Alec replied, "It was challenging but really fun to participate in and a great experience overall." Alec remains excited about participating next year and hopeful that he can place even higher.

Alec represented Commonwealth Electric in an outstanding way. We are extremely proud of him and his achievement! Congratulations Alec!



Ideal National Championship official logo

Controls & Automation

Michael Wagner - Project Manager/Control Engineer

The word is getting out about Commonwealth's new controls & automation team in Grand Island. We are making progress to offer local industrial controls and automation assistance to central and western Nebraska.

Recently our local team comprised of David Sandsted and myself. We got an urgent call from Syngenta Seeds in Phillips, NE when they were having trouble with their grain delivery system. David, who has had previous experience with Syngenta was instrumental in diagnosing the problem and getting Syngenta back on track during the busy harvest season.

While our team is capable of service calls we have also completed a project that encompassed electrical panel design and build for Eaton in Kearney, NE. David did a great job building out 3 professional looking electrical control panels on a tight schedule.



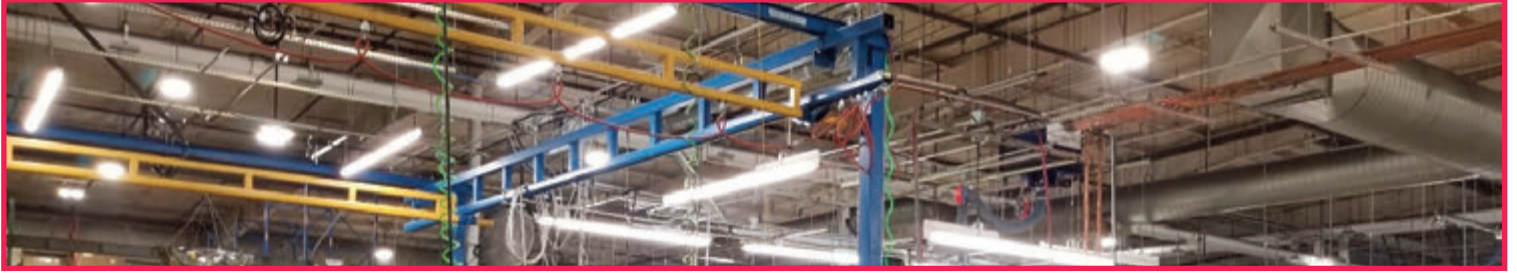
Example of panels being built for Eaton

Most recently the team is currently working with a customer who asked for a proposal to design and build a new supplemental safety panel, install and commission the panel, and tie it all together with PLC programming modifications. I was instrumental in managing project costs, developing a parts list, designing and developing the AutoCAD electrical schematics which were issued to the customer for review. David will build upon his expertise in building the panel and then the onsite commissioning of the upgraded system and programming modifications to the existing PLC code.

Our remote office is adapting to the regional marketplace as information about the multitude of capabilities that Commonwealth is offering becomes a reality.

Thermo King

Clayton Anderson - Project Manager, Central Nebraska
Kevin Dart - Service Manager, Central Nebraska

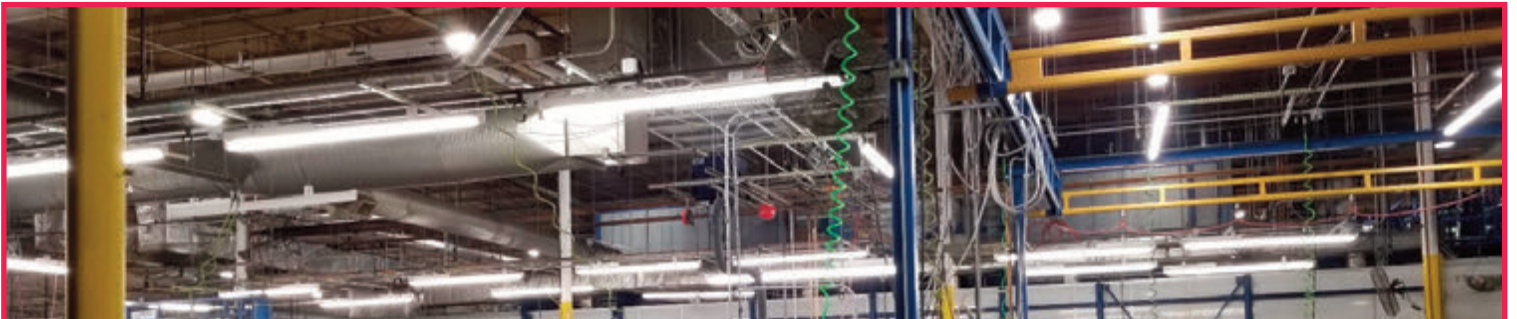


In December of 2017 the Central Nebraska branch partnered with Thermo King in Hastings NE in an endeavor to upgrade the lights in the entire plant to LED fixtures. Over 1000 fixtures later Thermo King has new high bay lights, task lights, and office lights. This is only the beginning of a customer relationship story.

Following the successful completion of the lighting project, Thermo King invited Commonwealth to assist their engineering and maintenance departments in the relocation, reconfiguration, and upgrading of over a dozen production lines in the facility. These projects were designed by their Engineering Department to streamline product work-flow, and improve efficient use of floor space. These projects included relocating and elevating mechanical and electrical distribution for the lines above the floor to facilitate new hoists and lifting equipment. We also installed new panels, transformers, and distribution for the electrical portion of the new equipment installation.

Much of the work for the lighting project and the line projects had to be completed during second shift to minimize the impact on Thermo King production. Alan Scott and his crew did an excellent job with the original lighting project. Kyle Bumgardner and his crew have been flexible and efficient in the very difficult task of juggling several line moves at the same time. They are greatly appreciated. Clayton Anderson and Kevin Dart have been teaming up with Thermo King Engineering to make sure the projects are running smoothly and on time. We would also like to mention the recent invitation of our Low Voltage division to the site for IT maintenance and backbone upgrades. They started their project in December.

These line relocation projects are ongoing and should be completed in the early part of 2019. We are also looking forward to working with Thermo King in the next year on some new and innovative projects they have on the horizon.



MUD Upgrades Chemical Building With New Electrical and Instrumentation Control Systems

Jon Folkers - Business Development & Marketing



Omaha, NE — Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest, is in the process of work on a difficult industrial project with Metropolitan Utilities District. The MUD Chemical Building upgraded and revised its chemical process systems for water treatment purposes. The upgrades/revisions are going to enable MUD to offer a new and improved water treatment process for the city of Omaha. We started this project in Jan. 2018, with the substantial completion scheduled for Dec. 2019.



The scope of the work involves upgrading an entirely new electrical service and instrumentation & controls system, which required the complete demolition of the building's existing electrical & control systems. The demolition work started on the main level, and consisted of relocating the large control center board. The new control center board is PLC-based, and will be relocated to the main IT room, located in the basement. The main electrical room was also relocated to the basement, due to the need for both services operating at the same time. Staff members that currently work in the chemical building, had to be relocated to on-site-temporary trailers, while the lab staff is still occupying the building in the laboratory.



We collaborated daily with MUD staff and the implementation contractor, Huffman Engineering. Our collaborative approach to project management, helped provide guidance and direction, to ensure the project ran efficiently. Due to the nature of this project, and combined with the number of phases to the project, we utilized our in-house Electrical Engineer, Adam Brumbaugh, for all project management needs.

The chemical building project was also in need of a new lighting system throughout the building, including the need for new exterior lighting. The lighting for the building, inside and out, all used LED technology. The efficiency of the LED light plan was emphasized from the beginning of the project. The chemical building used mostly luminaire-integrated occupancy sensors for the lighting controls, which made this a cost-savings measure for MUD.

The new upgrades to the chemical building also included a new office addition and conference room. These spaces required addition control technologies to meet the needs of MUD. The fire alarm systems were also upgraded to meet current building code standards.



Our Pre-Fabrication Shop was also used on this project. We found a need to utilize our shop during the pre-construction phases of the project. Items that were executed at our shop included: short pieces of conduit, cable tray strut-mounting racks and other electrical devices. Our Prefab team also devised more efficient ways for new luminaire mounting. The collaboration between the Site Foreman, PM and Prefab Manager, was instrumental with increasing job efficiency, safety and delivering all the materials on site, as they were needed.

Greenyug, Prairie Catalytic Plant Maintenance Contract

Andy Sueper - Service Manager

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest, Columbus branch, recently was awarded the service contract for newly constructed Prairie Catalytic Facility in Columbus Nebraska. In a research facility in Santa Barbara California, Greenyug set out to discover a way to satisfy a large market demand for renewable specialty chemicals, that could be manufactured in a sustainable, environmentally sound, and cost-effective manner. With that research the product Greenyug's ethyl acetate was created. Ethyl Acetate which is a specialty solvent is used in products such as paints, coating, pharmaceuticals, adhesives, and a variety of consumer goods. This Ethyl Acetate will be the first commercially available chemical of its kind in industrial quantities to be entirely sourced from renewable agricultural feedstock.

Construction started on the Greenyug Prairie Catalytic project in late 2016, where Commonwealth was subcontracted from another union contractor and the project was completed in early December 2018. In that time many challenges have arisen that was not expected in initial construction. With these new sets of challenges, Commonwealth has been on-site to solve these problems and to help facilitate a successful running facility.

The contract is being managed by CECM Service Manager, Andy Sueper and the Foreman on-site is Korey Swaitek.

Columbus Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 4

Jacob Wilcynski - Assistant Project Manager

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment plant over the last five years has been improving and expanding on their facility. This year, for the first time, the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility was recognized by the Nebraska Water Environment Association and was awarded "Best in Class" for their type of facility. Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest, Columbus Branch, has been awarded the construction of the Columbus Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 4 addition. Erikson construction is the general contractor for the project, who we also partnered with in the phase 2 addition in 2016. The phase 4 addition consists of constructing three separate buildings; biosolids storage and pump facility, blower building and an equipment storage building.

Commonwealth electric was awarded this project back in August of this year and just got started this December. We will be working on this project through the winter as well as all next year. The end date for this project is set to be in December 2019. With the abundant underground work, we have decided to get our Central Engineering department involved to help lay out our underground conduits. Central Engineering has more than proven to be a useful resource in the planning and layout of this project.

The Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility was awarded Best in Class this year by the Nebraska Water Environment Association. This is the first time the facility has been given this award. The General foreman on this project for Commonwealth Electric is Travis Stutzman. Travis has been with this company for 10 years in the service department. Travis expressed his interest in running a larger contract job this year and this will be his first opportunity to do so.