

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

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**Commonwealth Electric Company**  
of the midwest

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## Columbus Public Schools - Educational Service Unit Joint Project Awarded to Columbus

**Ruth Chermok** – Business Development

With estimating assistance of our Omaha office, Chris Black, won his first large project when our office was awarded the contract for the joint use CPS – ESU facility. This project was a hard bid job, and we were very pleased to be awarded the contract and to be working with General Contractor, Bierman Construction.

Columbus Public Schools and Educational Service Unit 7 teamed up to build a special education building. Our efforts with CPS have been greatly enhanced by our Omaha low voltage division. They have a very long-term and valued relationship with Columbus Public Schools. In fact, Leonard Kwapnioski, Director of Technology for Columbus Schools is a very loyal fan of Commonwealth Electric, due to the skills and effort of our low voltage team.

“The partnership between ESU and CPS is unique in the state,” Executive Director of Business

Operations Jeff Page said. “We hope to foster this type of partnership in the future with other public entities.”

Page said the funding for the \$1.3 million ESU-CPS project comes from mostly federal dollars. The new facility will house the CPS special education staff and the special education staff and programs from ESU 7.

In fact, Columbus Public Schools is one of the leaders in the analysis of a joint partnership between CPS, East Central Health District and the YMCA. The School district has acquired land for a new middle school, and serious discussions and analysis are occurring as to the possibility of locating the Health District and jointly using a facility with the YMCA.

The building is being constructed south of the ESU 7 buildings at 2657 44th Ave. The projected completion date is August of 2011.

## Boy Scouts Mid Iowa Council Sporting Clay Invitational

**Allison Petersen** - Service Coordinator

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest and Barsol teamed up again to help support the Boy Scouts of Central Iowa. The team participated in the Mid Iowa Boy Scouts Sporting Clay Invitational. The tournament took place in late October at the New Pioneer Gun Club near Waukee, Iowa. A total of 17 teams participated to help raise money and awareness for the Boy Scouts. The CECM/Barsol team shot well and placed 1st in the Invitational.



*Members of the 1st place team - Dave Richards, Michael Duffy, Dave Casten and Michael Price.*

## Construction Begins on Personnel Recovery Center in Tucson

**Jay Hoobler** - Vice President

Personnel Recovery is part of the Warrior's Ethos "I will never leave a fallen comrade". As part of a larger effort to improve our nation's capabilities to rescue and recover missing and wounded members of our armed forces, we are proud to be associated with the construction of the new Personnel Recovery Center of Excellence at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona.

Commonwealth Electric received the subcontract to perform the electrical work associated with this new facility back in October of 2010. This job consists of three combined projects. The first project is a 25,000 square foot Rescue Squadron Operations Facility specifically designed to support rescue squadron flight operations and missions along with facilities for administration, planning and briefings. The second project is a 13,517 square foot HC-130J Aircraft Flight Simulator and training facility. The third project is an expansion of the existing infrastructure consisting of a utility infrastructure component that includes a central plant facility and also a road infrastructure component. The infrastructure components are part of the future plan that will include several more new buildings that will be part of the Personnel Recovery Center of Excellence.

We are subcontracted on this job with Kisak-RQ Construction out of Carlsbad, California. Site work began in December and the entire project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2012.

As part of the Federal Government and the Air Force's commitment to utilize alternative sources of energy, both the Operations Facility and the Simulator Facility will have solar photovoltaic power systems installed as part of the electrical system at each facility. The project is also targeted to achieve LEED Silver certification.

Our project manager on this job is Randy Comolli who also recently managed the C-130 Hangar project that was completed last year. Our site superintendent for this job will be Robert Ervin who has developed an excellent reputation for both on-time completion and safety which is of high emphasis on this job as it is with all of our jobs.

Some of the additional buildings are already out for bid so we will be working hard to ensure that we make a good impression on this project so that we are included in the future development plans for this facility.

## Commonwealth and Linweld/MTG Team Up For Another Project in Grimes, Iowa

**T. Michael Price** - Vice President

Commonwealth Electric Company in Des Moines was selected as the design build electrical contractor for the Linweld/Matheson Tri-Gas Truck Maintenance facility in Grimes, Iowa. The project will consist of a new facility to maintain Linweld's trucks and gas transportation trailers. The electrical scope of the project will include 480V distribution and equipment, convenience and HVAC power wiring, efficient fluorescent lighting, fire alarm, gas detection systems, telephone and data cabling, fiber optic cabling and Class I Division 1 explosion proof wiring. Michael Price, Eric Hoge and Josh Muench have collaborated on the electrical design. Also on the project team are G.R. Birdwell Construction and The Waldinger Corporation. Commonwealth's foreman will be Nate Findlay and our project manager will be Michael Price.



*Architectural rendering of future truck maintenance facility at the Raccoon River ASP in Grimes, Iowa*

## New Kum & Go Store in Clive

Mark Ramsey - Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric's Des Moines branch recently completed construction on the new Kum & Go store in Clive, Iowa. This new LEED certified 5000 square foot design replaces their traditional 3500 square foot layout.

The new Kum & Go has an 800 Amp service with connections to an 800 Amp cam-lock termination box located on the exterior of the building for easy connection to an emergency generator should they lose power. Along with an automated lighting control system, the interior lighting is either low voltage or fluorescent, and all of the exterior lighting is LED.

Other new features include an electric car charging station and a kitchen prep area with a full time cook. With the expansion of the kitchen area, came the addition of exhaust hoods with an ansul system and a fire alarm system.

Commonwealth Electric project manager, Mark Ramsey, and foreman electrician, Robin Pearson, teamed up with Henning Construction Company's project manager, Shad Spora and superintendent Drew Gadberry to close out the project ahead of the original completion date.



*Kum & Go - Clive*



## Cabela's Expands in the Omaha Area

Mark Ross - Project Manager

Back in December 2009, Commonwealth Electric was one of four electrical contractors chosen to bid on the construction of Cabela's new data center to be located in Papillion, Nebraska. The data center would be approximately 17,000 square feet, 3,200 square feet being office area. On January 28, 2010 we submitted our bid and four weeks later we were awarded the project with Kiewit Building Group, beating the second place bidder by less than two percent. Meeting the first challenge (the Bid) we went on to the next challenge which would be the schedule. The Engineer/Owner wanted to start commissioning the building on November 1, 2010 and the earliest we could get on site was the end of April.

Approximately seventy-five percent of the conduit for this project was installed underground or just under the slab. Complicating the PVC installation was the fact that we had a rainy spring and the project lost seventeen days to rain, although there were a few days that Commonwealth was the only contractor on site working in the mud installing conduit to help keep the project on schedule. During the site-work we install 6,000' of 4" PVC, 5,700' of 3 1/2" PVC, 1,900' of 3" PVC and 11,000' of 3/4" & 1" PVC. Some trenches were seven feet deep and in some areas we had up to four layers of conduits crossing each other. We had roughly eight weeks to get all of our underground conduits installed.

Once the underground work was done we slowed down a little, waiting for the building structure to go up and become weather tight. That process would take us to the end of July and we would then have twelve weeks to finish the work. The Owner purchased all the major equipment which included the 1500KW generator, one 4000A isolation switch, the two section paralleling switchboard, two 3200A main switchboards, two 750KVA UPS systems including batteries and UPS tie switchboard. All of this equipment was then scheduled to be delivered in September. With the way the building was designed, we decided to wait until the equipment was set in place before we pulled the cables. All the wire pulls were ordered on designated paralleling reels from our supplier, so we had our wire pulling crew starting out and two days later we had two men following them installing the compression lugs and terminating. The major wire used was comprised of approximately 20,000' of 600MCM, 5,400' of 500MCM and 10,000' of #4/0. We also had men during this time period installing the



*Cabela's New Data Center*

systems conduit, lighting & power branch circuit conduit and wire, fixtures and the miscellaneous equipment. Everything came together and the commissioning started the first week of November. Just prior to commissioning we got approval on a change order to furnish and install 84 equipment power tails under the raised floor to the owner's equipment racks. This work was done during the first two weeks of December which would then allow the Owner to switch over their systems after the first of the new year.

The fire alarm, low voltage system and phone/data were installed by Commonwealth Communications with Russ Williamson in the office and Jeremy Englehart in the field.

Bob Bohling was the foreman for this project and our peak manpower was eleven men. Bob did an excellent job of laying the work out and putting the right people in the areas needed. Bob would often ask how areas of the job were bid in order to keep the installation cost in line with the bid cost. The owner was very pleased with the work and the professionalism in how Commonwealth conducted itself. We were told by one of their building managers that Commonwealth would be called for all subsequent electrical work in the building. Morrissey Engineering was the engineer of record and they were very impressed with the quality of work that Commonwealth Electric had done.

# Jordan Creek Town Center Tenant Spaces

**Allison Petersen** - Service Coordinator

Commonwealth Electric's Des Moines branch just wrapped up construction on the remodel of two tenant spaces at Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines. The two stores were remodeled simultaneously providing both a challenge and a great opportunity.

One of the spaces was Pandora, which is a national chain of jewelry stores. Being a jewelry store, the majority of the project consisted of providing power to their display cases and installing new light fixtures throughout. On this project, we had our first opportunity to work with Jack Hartsell Construction. Chuck Garrett, the superintendent on site, was incredibly helpful and a pleasure to work with.

The second space was for a seasonal store whose tenant was yet to be determined. This space was basically a new build-out. Power and telephone were provided to the space; pendant lights were installed throughout and can lights were installed in the entrance canopy. On this project, we were

fortunate to get to work directly with the mall management. Dave Garland, Operations Manager at Jordan Creek, oversaw the project and took a very hands-on approach, which helped keep the project moving. We look forward to furthering our relationship with Dave and the mall.

Both of these projects were run through the CECM service department with Jason Lane serving as project manager. Journeyman electrician, Brad Ramsey, ran each project, splitting his time between both spaces. He was helped out by several other electricians when he needed an extra hand or two. John Ladurini, journeyman low voltage technician, took care of the telephone and data work for both stores as well. Brad did a fantastic job, as did John and everyone else involved.

## Giving Back

**Ruben J. Bera** - Corporate Safety Director

We come to that time again when we all look back and reflect on the past year. I have seen many positive changes to our safety culture at Commonwealth Electric Company. We are ending what I would describe as a very successful year for safety. Our accidents are close to none. Three branches are ending the year accident free. Our employees are receiving up to date training on all aspects of electrical safety. We are receiving suggestions from the field workers on what they think can help reduce exposure to accidents. We have received numerous awards for your safety achievements. I fully believe we have the best electricians working for us.

Although job site safety is important, sometimes our after work activities can help influence our job performance. This past year we participated in the American Heart Association heart walk challenges and with great success. We have been to schools and spoke to young children on the importance of electrical

safety. So, as we end this year, I challenged my staff to look for a way we can show our appreciation for the great year we have had and the blessings that are upon us.

On December 21, 2010, your safety department volunteered to serve lunch and help with the cleaning at the local Open Door Mission. The experience was one I personally will not forget. I can speak for Mike and Jennifer when I say this was an afternoon well spent.

I look forward to 2011. I somewhat feel our safety record will be even better. As I said we have the best of the best working for us. We look forward to providing all employees a safe work environment and the training needed to make sure everyone goes home the same way we came to work - safe!

## Stuart Iowa Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

**Matt Masters** - Project Manager

Commonwealth's Des Moines location is in the final stages of completing the electrical and instrumentation portion of the Stuart Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project. The project includes a new 800amp service, 230KW generator as well as new Headworks Building, Clarifier, Stormwater Pumping Station, Sludge Pumping Station, Process Tanks, reconnection of existing equipment, and several other structures.

CECM is working with Nelson Engineering out of South Sioux City, Nebraska who is the General Contractor on the project, and V&K Engineering out of West Des Moines. Commonwealth Electric's team consists of Nate Findlay, Project Foreman, along with Matt Masters, Project Manager, and Pat Klausen, Estimator. It has been a good experience to work with V&K Engineering, Nelson Engineering and the City of Stuart on this project. We look forward to working with all of them on future endeavors.

In related news, Commonwealth Electric was awarded another industrial project where we will again work with V&K Engineering. Look for a future article on the Court & Waters Storm Water Pumping Station.



*Stuart Wastewater Treatment Facility*