

synergy

2006 vol3 issue1

Krech Ojard & Associates Newsletter

consumer's energy

Krech Ojard Engineers work with Consumer's Energy in Michigan on a world-class fuel handling conversion for their coal power plant.

ALSO INSIDE:

Consumer's Energy
cover story

Vermilion Wellness Center

New Employee Additions

consumer's energy

Holland, Michigan

Client	Krech Ojard Services
Consumer's Energy	Mechanical
Location	Budget
Holland, Michigan	\$13 million
Completed	Contractor
Multiple projects spanning 2005, 2006 & others currently ongoing through 2007	Lakehead Constructors

"The goal of this conversion is to provide a world-class fuel handling system... using the latest in controlled flow chute design, air-supported enclosed conveyors, and washdown-friendly structures"



This has included removal of three existing conveyor systems, removal of the existing coal breaker drum and associated equipment, an elevated conveyor gallery, and the addition of a traveling tripper. Installation of the new systems and equipment will be starting soon and progressing over the next few months.



Demolition of old conveyor and chute systems

Krech Ojard teamed with Lakehead Constructors Inc., in this \$13 million design/build contract. This project involved facility and equipment upgrades required to convert the power plant's existing 900tph back-up fueling path to a 2000tph primary path conveying PRB coal. The goal of this conversion is to provide a world-class fuel handling system from reclaim pit to boiler bunker using the latest in controlled flow chute design, air supported enclosed conveyors, and washdown-friendly structures.

Another service that Krech Ojard has provided is the review of train handling systems for the

potential increase of three million tons of western coal. Included in the study was determination of train operation requirements for handling the increased tonnage through Chicago.

Krech Ojard conducted a review of the current back-up fueling path, prepared a detailed design package (engineering, materials handling, structural design), prepared the equipment specification package, and developed maintenance and spare parts manuals. Currently, KO has staff on site to provide on-site construction management, construction inspection, QA/QC, and Primavera scheduling services. For the past two months, KO has been assisting the contractor in demo work of the existing fuel path.



Krech Ojard is currently working with the plant operations specifying a replacement locomotive which will be needed with the increase of coal.



vermilion wellness center

Lake Vermilion, Minnesota

Client
Bois Forte Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa

Krech Ojard Services
Civil
Structural
Architectural

Location
Tower, Minnesota

Size
20,000 sf

Completed
2006

Contractor
Max Gray Construction

"The project was conceived to provide a structured, safe environment for children to congregate after school and provide a gathering place for many community gatherings."



The Vermilion Wellness

Center is a multi-use facility located in the Vermilion community for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in northeastern Minnesota. The project is a 20,000 sf facility, containing



the Boys & Girls Club and Bois Forte Youth programs, a gymnasium, locker rooms, sauna, and a Fitness Center. A future phase will add a pool and additional fitness facilities to the community complex. The Youth Center portion of the building includes a game room, arts & crafts room, computer room/classroom, restroom facilities and control area/office for administering youth programming.

The facility primarily houses the Vermilion branch of the Boys & Girls Club of America and Fitness Center. The project was conceived to provide a structured, safe environment for children to congregate after school and provide a gathering place for many community gatherings. The facility also houses programming provided

by Bois Forte Health Services, which uses the facilities to accommodate a wellness/fitness programs to help combat diabetes, a disease prominent in Native-American communities.

Prior to construction of the facility, the Vermilion community had no common gathering facilities to accommodate neighborhood meetings, weddings, funerals and other large groups of Band members.

The facility was financed primarily with a grant provided by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux community, the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council and the Indian Community Development Block Grant program. The facility provides a wonderful example of cooperation between Native



communities, which the facility would not have been possible. The project includes a structural system of architectural pre-cast concrete panels, steel bar joist roof framing and wood frame single story construction. The building is clad in a combination of cement fiber siding and Parklex composite panels.

The upper portion of the gymnasium includes recessed banding in a pattern taken from an Ojibwe Dikinaagan or "cradle board" design which was created at mid-century by a Bois Forte Band member. The Dikinaagan pattern represents the reawakening and recovery of Ojibwe art, language and pride in Ojibwe culture. Corridor floor patterning is reminiscent of Ojibwe bead-work designs as well.

hires & promotions



Gene Ekman has joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Mechanical Engineer. Ekman has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota & a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota Duluth.



Nels Ojard has been promoted to Manager of the Structural Engineering Department. Ojard was previously in the Krech Ojard Eau Claire office, and is now at the Krech Ojard headquarters in Duluth, Minnesota.



Katie Jasek has joined Krech Ojard & Associates' Eau Claire office as an Administrative Assistant. Jasek is currently attending the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and is majoring in Marketing and is minoring in Accounting.



Jim Owens, PE has joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Mechanical Engineer. Owens graduated from the University Of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Masters of Business and also from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Chuck Johnson has joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Mechanical/Structural CAD technician. Johnson has an Associates degree from Hibbing Community College in Drafting and Design.



Scott Stempihar has recently joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Civil Engineer. Stempihar graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 2004.



Wyatt Kreutzer has recently joined Krech Ojard & Associates' Eau Claire office as a Structural Technician. Kreutzer graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College with an Associate Degree in Civil/Structural Engineering in 2006.



Alan Trojan, PE has recently joined Krech Ojard & Associates' Eau Claire office as a Structural Engineer. Trojan graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with Bachelor of Science Degree in Structural Engineering. Trojan is a Professional Engineer in Wisconsin.



Adam Marksteiner has joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Mechanical Engineer in Training. Marksteiner has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering as well as a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Minnesota Duluth.



Nathaniel Wilkinson has recently joined Krech Ojard & Associates as a Structural Technician. Wilkinson graduated from North West Technical Institute.

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