



Hooper
CORPORATION
Fall 2016 Edition

OnSite





BY DAVE ORR
HOOPER PRESIDENT

A Letter from the President

The people of Hooper and our affiliate, General Heating and Air Conditioning, now total nearly 800 employees. At Hooper, we have demonstrated our pride and purpose as your full-service electric power and mechanical contractor since 1913. In the end, it is our people who fulfill the promise we make to our customers.

Understanding our people begins with our shared commitment to safety. This is our highest priority and it is reflected in the results we have experienced (page 3).

Reflecting on history, the people of Hooper Corporation have been working for our communities for almost one hundred and four years. From our rather modest beginnings in our headquarter's city of Madison, Wis., our reach now extends out to a number of states and regions around the country including an office in the northern suburb of Denver, Colo. (page 5).

In terms of safety, our commitment to ensuring customer quality and value drives us to perform in many different locations and markets. From a new Chemistry and Biology Building at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (page 9) to work on the new high profile arena for the Milwaukee Bucks (page 6), our talented workforce delivers proven results for discerning and rightfully demanding customers. This is underscored by our exciting new reach to the hospital under construction in the Upper Peninsula. We are honored to be working on such a major project of tremendous public importance in Marquette, Mich. (page 4).

We are proud to have been chosen to provide services for the U.S. Army in creating a new, dedicated, and secure power station, to help with the decommission and disposal of chemical weapons (page 7). Our reliable work for continuing customers, like WE Energies and Madison Gas and Electric (page 8), shows our commitment to the people and the communities that we have always served for more than a century.

From my vantage point as President of Hooper, I am pleased to report that our organization is strong, healthy, and engaged in the important work of building capacity for the diversification and expansion of our local, regional, and national economy. Having come up through the ranks of General Heating and Air Conditioning, I know that our crews and teams are ready for the important work that will be part of our winter and success in 2017.

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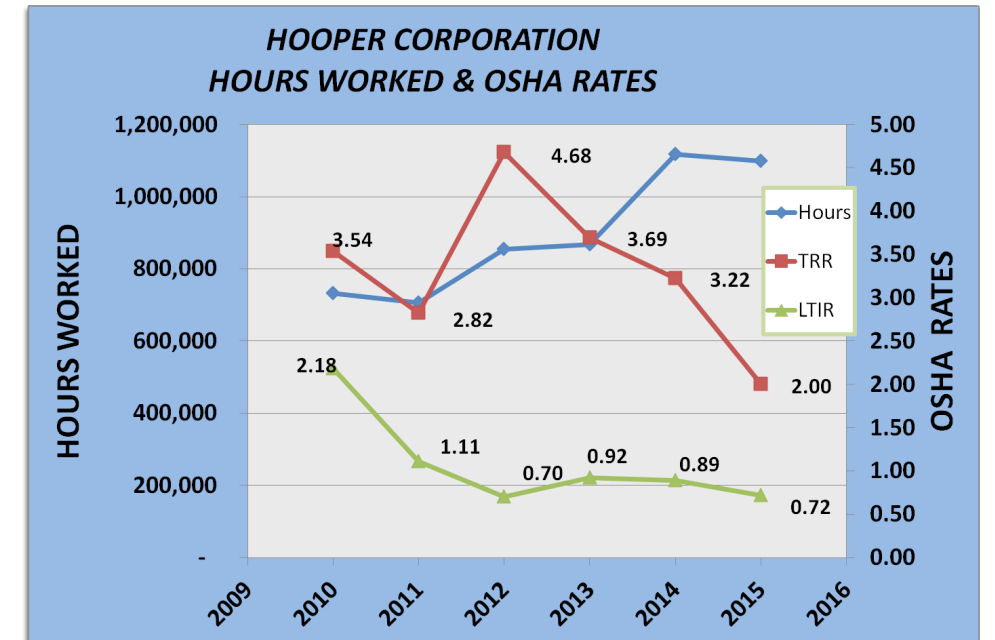
Hooper Safety Rates at Historical Lows

Building on our past success and commitment to safety, Hooper has experienced the most significant display of positive safety results in our history. This commitment to safety in the workplace is reflected in a summary graph tracking injury frequency as compared with our total work effort over the past seven years.

- The clear trend since 2009 shows that Hooper's labor force has increased our working hours (exposure) while also reducing our injury frequency rate. We are particularly encouraged to see the trend since 2011 showing a sharp increase in our Total Recordable Rate (TRR) at the same time we see a clear reduction in the Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR).

At Hooper, we emphasize all aspects of safety as our highest priority. Ensuring the safety of every employee on every job site is essential to our success in providing high-quality service. We take special care to ensure that while our business opportunities expand and we experience periods of growth, we must also work harder and smarter to reduce injury exposure in all job categories.

Standardized comparisons using this OSHA data allows us to understand our experiences over time. These injury rate calculations are as highly sensitive as they are important. The addition of a single recordable injury significantly impacts our collective lost time in performing our work.



Here's how we were able to do it:

- Leadership.** In 2014, Hooper hired a dedicated safety professional to manage and lead the safety effort over the Mechanical Division. Since then, Hooper Mechanical has gone a full year without a lost time injury and even won the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) National Safety Award for Safety Excellence.
 - From 2010 to 2013, Hooper Mechanical accounted for an average of 4.5 recordable injuries each year. Since then, that number has dropped to an average of 2.5.
 - From 2009 to 2014, the Electric Power Division averaged 10.5 recordable injuries per year. That number has declined to 9 in 2015 and only 6 thus far in 2016.
- Innovation.** The Safety Department works tirelessly with our medical providers and employees to identify prevention treatment approaches to promote health and recovery without time lost from work.
- Commitment.** Our comprehensive safety program is benchmarked against the most effective and progressive approach found anywhere. We embrace all proven

safety practices and employee health approaches found in all industry sectors.

While we are encouraged by the trend lines, we also know that health and safety is our highest priority. We are pleased to have a working culture that focuses on injury prevention by empowering our employees to preplan their work for safety while simultaneously recording safe work performance through accountability.

At Hooper, we know that true quality and value is found when safety comes first. This means that our work is performed on time, on or under budget, with a commitment to increasing customer value while we actively promote and ensure safety on all job sites.



Marquette Community Invests in Hospital: Hooper and GHAC Excited to be Involved

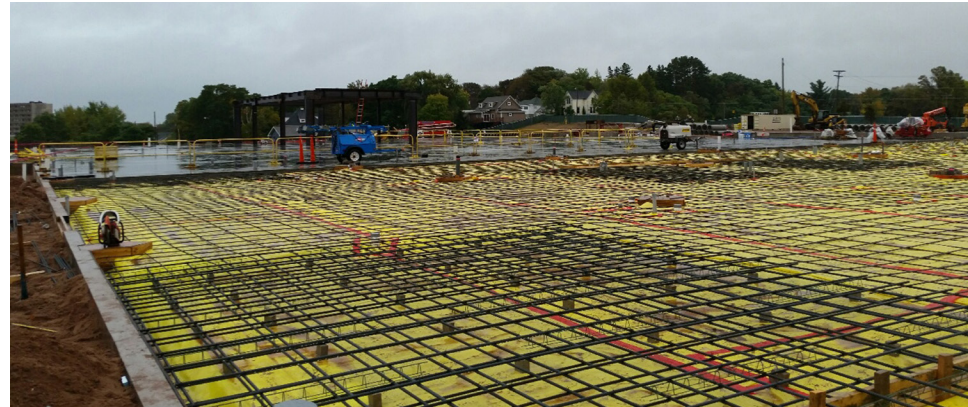


The beauty of Lake Superior offers a high quality of life for the residents of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Due to the changing needs of the Marquette, Mich. community, an important investment decision was made to build a new 535,000 square foot, 270 bed replacement hospital.

Hooper and General Heating and Air Conditioning (GHAC) were chosen to complete the HVAC and plumbing work in partnership with Skanska/Closner, the hospital's general contractor. This project represents a significant developmental opportunity and unique prospect to build a modern health care facility.

Duke LifePoint Healthcare (owner of the new hospital) and their commitment to quality gives us the chance to express our skills and experience in HVAC and plumbing construction for medical and healthcare facilities. The UP Health System – Marquette joins the extensive network of seventy other LifePoint medical centers and hospitals across twenty-two states.

The project broke ground in late summer with underground plumbing and off-site pipe, duct, and multi-trade rack fabrication. Off-site fabrication is a key component to ensure quality, enhance safety, and meet a challenging schedule, which is mainly due to the short summers in the Upper Peninsula.



Top A rendering offers a glimpse of the finished product
Middle: Slab pours in progress
Bottom: Ground work continues, regardless of changing weather conditions.

(Continued on page 11.)

Colorado Regional Office Provides Growth and Geographical Reach

In order to expand the reach of the Electric Power Division and bring customer-focused service, Hooper Corporation opened a regional office in a suburb in the northern Denver metropolitan area. Located in Commerce City, Colo., the Hooper facility was established in 2014 to improve the effectiveness of our work with Xcel Energy through substation and transmission work.

Hooper had been doing substation and transmission work for about five years in Colorado when Xcel Energy selected Hooper to perform underground and overhead distribution work. The size of the contract and the importance of this work with Xcel and others in the greater Denver area caused us to make the investment in a permanent brick and mortar presence. This presence has helped Hooper to expand as our engagement has continued.

- When the office first opened two years ago, there were six full-time office employees and approximately 35 field employees.
- Today, the office has grown to include 16 organizational, administrative, and supervisor employees with more than 160 employees in the field providing valued services to our customers.

All of Hooper's current distribution work falls within the territory of Xcel Energy in the Denver Metro Area and Sterling, Colo. Our substation crews continue to work statewide. We currently have a contractor's license in over 40 cities.

Thanks to the presence of this regional Hooper office, we have been able to provide increased storm response to Xcel and other customers. Our storm work has generally been in the Denver area and responsive to many different conditions including snow, wind, ice, and even a tornado.

The reach has also extended beyond Denver and Colorado to include outreach work in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma to help restore power after



Jackson Fuller substation in Colorado Springs.

a major ice storm. Just this summer, Hooper was able to send crews from the Denver area to the Twin Cities in Minnesota to assist in the relief efforts after the region experienced a debilitating wind storm.

Regional office expands Hooper's capabilities

The capabilities we have out of our Colorado office have allowed us to take on different kinds of projects. When we first started our work in Colorado, we had just a handful of jobs; today, we manage a backlog of over 200 scheduled jobs.

- Hooper crews are currently completing new underground and overhead line distribution, underground cable replacement, pole replacements, underground feeder installations, and fault repairs.
- We also recently added a substation project manager to the Colorado office and continue to have the ability to manage transmission work out of the office as well.

Technology Keeps All Offices Seamlessly Integrated

As Hooper expands to operate from

important regional sites like the Denver facility, we continue to develop business practices to ensure that all work is coordinated and seamlessly integrated. These innovations include all contract and job-related documentation, accounting, and communication (document imaging, work order management, and electronic crew timesheet reporting). These management systems allow coordination and collaboration with personnel from Madison and other bases of operation.

Hooper Plumbing Begins Work on High Profile Milwaukee Bucks Arena

Project Specs:

- > Plumbing Start Date: Sept. 2016
- > Expected Completion Date: Aug. 2017
- > General Contractor: M.A. Mortenson Company

Building a state of the art, world class, multi-purpose arena is a major undertaking. When Hooper's plumbing department was engaged, they saw an opportunity to perform at the highest standards of value and quality. Every estimator and project manager in the department was needed to put together a precise and accurate project proposal in a tight time frame.

Without a team effort, leadership, and the dedication of the staff, this would not have been possible. When Hooper received the call that they had been awarded the project, the team felt a lot of pride. Communication and collaboration are vital to securing projects such as this and illustrate what it means to be part of Hooper.

The opportunity to be an important part in building a modern, new professional sports arena is uniquely challenging. This new facility will not only be the new home to the Milwaukee Bucks, it will be the venue of choice for countless other sports and entertainment events.

- This arena will feature a bowl optimized for basketball viewing that will also be used for hockey games and ice events, family shows, circuses, concerts, and open-floor exhibitions.
- There will be a more efficient seating pattern and open and transparent concourses.

The importance of this work is only overshadowed by the tremendous public visibility of the project. This makes this initiative a thrilling assignment for all involved.



Project Details

Hooper plumbing crews are installing the complete plumbing system for the arena including all gas piping, carbon dioxide piping, and therapy pools in the 714,000 square foot arena. Crews will also install an underground temporary gas system to heat the building over the next two winters.

Uniqueness to Project

The Milwaukee Bucks have made it a priority that the Milwaukee community be involved in the construction of this project. This means a large portion of the workforce will come from the surrounding area and minority or disadvantaged businesses are involved. Hooper Corporation has made a commitment with M.A. Mortenson (general contractor) and the Milwaukee Bucks that 40% of our workforce be local.

Challenges

In order to overcome the fast paced construction schedule, Hooper must utilize and rely heavily on the building information modeling (BIM) department to coordinate with all trades and integrate local Milwaukee staff. The plumbing department's experience with large projects and a team that works efficiently and effectively with new field staff and other trades makes a difference as well.

Above: Milwaukee Bucks released rendering of the new multi-purpose arena.

Below: A crew works to install a grease interceptor.



Pueblo Substation Gives Hooper Opportunity with Energy Systems Group

This spring, Energy Systems Group, a leading energy services provider, recognized Hooper's expertise through engagement and involvement at a new facility created to dispose of chemical weapons. Located at the U.S. Army's Chemical Weapon Depot in Pueblo, Colorado, this unique project created an electric power substation to help facilitate that important work.

Recognizing the importance of this project and the safety it requires, Hooper assembled a dedicated and experienced on-site team, including a full-time project manager and safety officer to work alongside a complete substation construction crew.

Hooper's team embarked upon a four and a half month project to provide power to the newly constructed chemical weapon disposal facility. Hooper crews worked with Energy Systems Group and Black Hills Energy (operator of the existing substation) on a very tight schedule to expand the existing 115 kV - 15 kV substation. The new substation had to be energized in early September to support the start-up of the new chemical disposal facility that the U.S. Army had just completed.

Using safety-conscious and environmentally-friendly practices and approaches, Hooper performed the following:

- Setting the new 115 kV - 15 kV power transformer
- Setting the new 15 kV switchgear building
- Procuring and installing the raceway systems, grounding systems, steel structures, bus and conductors, insulators, 600 V control cables, 15 kV power cables, and a 15 kV sectionalizing cabinet
- Testing and commissioning of the new substation equipment
- 15 kV distribution feeder installations and circuit relocations



Hooper crews work on the final welding of the overhead bus support system.



Crews set the new 2-stage below-grade vault to intercept underground power cable circuits.



Substation workers wire and complete terminations within our outage deadline for final circuit cutover.



Crews work to secure a 105,000 lb. main power transformer onto slab-on-grade foundation.

(Continued on page 11.)

We Energies Chooses Hooper as Preferred Contractor

We Energies, a leading electric service company providing service to portions of Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, chose Hooper Corporation as a preferred contractor for a 3-year blanket contract. Under this arrangement, started in early 2016, Hooper will perform overhead distribution work and other services in support of improved electric power service for regional customers.

The work with We Energies includes unit-priced base work and other services provided on the basis of time and equipment. During the early phases of this important work, Hooper has crews

working in southeast Wisconsin and in the Fox Valley.

Hooper has also been successful securing additional bid work from We Energies. Earlier this year, Hooper was awarded two Wisconsin-based projects: the Brown Lake Conversion (located in Burlington), and the Parkway Conversion (located in Wauwatosa). Hooper's work includes crews working under the primary contract and six additional crews performing services on the two listed conversion projects. This work should be completed before the end of the calendar year.



Crews work in Burlington, Wis. to convert and upgrade the electrical system.

MG&E and Hooper Clear Storm Damage in Madison Area

Summer months typically bring severe storms to the upper Midwest and 2016 was no exception. Being able to respond to rapidly changing and often unpredictable weather is the competitive edge that Hooper provides to communities throughout this region.

Hooper was pleased to work in

partnership with the number one in the nation for electric service reliability, Madison Gas & Electric (MG&E), to address issues associated with a major storm that hit on July 6. Power outages across MG&E's service territory caused nearly 20,000 customers to be left without power as a result of these

(Continued on page 11.)



Hooper line clearance worker removing a large silver maple limb from a single phase distribution line on MG&E property.



A line clearance worker surveys the damage of a broken branch on top of a three phase distribution line.

Advancing Science at UW-Stevens Point: Hooper and GHAC Collaborate on Chemistry & Biology Building

Education institutions must be energy efficient and environmentally conscious. New buildings represent a significant public investment in a promising future. Noting these conditions, Hooper and General Heating and Air Conditioning (GHAC) were pleased to be engaged to help build an extensive new laboratory facility at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point starting this past spring.

- Science education in central Wisconsin will be supported and advanced through this state of art 176,500-square-foot building.
- The facility will include educational labs, lecture halls, and research facilities for biology and chemistry.
- This significant improvement to the teaching and learning space represents the University's first new, free-standing academic building to be constructed since 1971.

In addition to an innovative vegetative green roof, important features of the new building include:

- four 55-seat classrooms
- two 110-seat lecture halls
- research and teaching labs on each floor
- a student-oriented small café

Hooper is installing all plumbing systems including extensive lab waste system, lab gases and associated equipment, storm, water reuse, reverse osmosis system, compressed air equipment, and sanitary waste system. Crews will also install connections to many fume hoods.

GHAC is installing all the ductwork and exhaust work including high pressure steam, chilled and hot water.

Due to the tight working site and fast paced schedule, high pressure steam expansion valves, piping in box conduit, in wall piping components, and overhead lab gas and water systems are being fabricated in our Madison facility and transported just in time for installation.

Hooper and GHAC are proud to be partnering with others in this important



new project for a most highly deserving UW System institution.



Top: A rendering of the final product designed by HOK in association with Potter Lawson.

Middle: Hooper crews install floor sleeves for plumbing penetrations to prepare for the second floor pour.

Bottom Left: View of the site from the top of the stairwell.

Bottom Right: North view of the chemistry and biology building.

> Hooper Foundation

Community Events: A Glance at a Few Organizations We Recently Supported



Having a high quality sound system helped ensure the success of this season's **Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra's Concerts on the Square**. This was made possible by Hooper Corporation. We enjoyed an employee night in July with music from the movies.



Our team of employees were enthusiastic participants in this year's **Loop the Lake** annual bike ride around Lake Monona in July. This was the third year the Hooper Foundation helped sponsor the event. Proceeds from the 12 mile ride went to the **Clean Lake Alliance's** ongoing lake improvement and protection efforts.



The **United Way** helps make a strong community stronger. Hooper Corporation and General Heating and Air Conditioning (GHAC) kicked off their United Way campaign with an Office Olympics tournament! GHAC also had a pie contest where employees tasted 18 different pies including fruit pies and cream pies. They followed it up with their annual golf tournament in August with 53 golfers attending (proud winning team pictured above). All proceeds went to benefit the United Way of Dane County. Thank you to everyone who joined in the effort to make our 2016 United Way campaign a success!



Ensuring health and safety is a priority at our company, which is why we were proud to participate in the 29th annual **Heat's On** project. The Heat's on mission is to reduce the occurrence of veterans going without heat or facing other life threatening emergencies associated with their home heating systems this winter. Volunteers from Dane County businesses, Steam Fitters Local 601, local Union Contractors and the Madison Area Mechanical & Sheet Metal Contractors Association (MSC) came together to generously donate their time and supplies to perform a complimentary furnace clean and check to nearly 60 veterans homes in and around Dane County.

> Marquette Hospital (continued from page 4)

The hospital will encompass:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic services
- Patient care services
- Administrative and operational support
- Central utility plant
- Mechanical, electrical, and telecommunications areas
- 98,000 square foot clinical services/ medical office building
- 220,000 square foot parking structure

"This is a major new project," said Dave Orr. "We are pleased to bring our talented project management, superintendents, and fabrication talents, joined with the local skilled steamfitter, plumber, and sheetmetal trades to provide quality and value for those investing in this new medical facility."



Crews work to finish the first floor slab which is shown poured about 60%. The remaining slab is set to be poured by the end of December.

> Pueblo Substation (continued from page 7)

The project came to a close by the deadline in September. The project team was successful throughout this project as a result of the close coordination between Hooper Corporation, Energy Systems Group, Black Hills Energy, and the U.S. Army.

> MG&E (continued from page 8)

storms.

Even before the full scope of the damage was fully assessed, Hooper immediately mobilized its local tree crews, overhead line crew, and additional help from Milwaukee-based Hooper overhead line crews to help restore power as quickly as possible. Thanks to these efforts and tremendous sacrifice over two long, hard, days of grueling work by dedicated professionals and technicians, all power

was restored to effected customers.

Gary Wolter, Chairman, President and CEO of MG&E, stated, "On July 6, we put out a call for mutual assistance after experiencing our worst storm in ten years in terms of the number of customers without service. WE Energies released 20 Hooper employees that were working on their projects. The Hooper crews arrived quickly and performed in an exemplary manner."

Responding to emergencies and focusing on ensuring customer service is just part of Hooper's commitment to the communities we serve. In this way, we are proud to be part of the emergency response team that helps deal with the aftermath of nature's fury.