SHIVE-HATTERY DESIGN WINS ACEC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics Central Generator Plant

Hospitals grow and evolve, but one thing that remains constant is the critical need for reliable power. For this project at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Iowa City campus, the demands of an already dense medical complex along with stringent emissions requirements on the campus led the owner to seek a remote site for a new emergency power facility for their new Children’s Hospital. The generator plant and pathways needed to be expandable and robust enough to withstand EF-3 rated winds.

Like any project, many challenges had to be overcome to successfully meet the owner’s requirements. The generator building site is a small pocket of land between a commuter lot and the University competition golf course. The smallest possible footprint for the building was needed to preserve the existing tree buffer at the adjacent green yet be strong enough to withstand F-3 winds to protect the generator inside. Another challenge was getting the power to the new hospital. The electrical ductbank had to extend from the generator building past a parking lot, under a railroad track, past an electrical substation, along 3 recently constructed major venues for University Athletics, under the major traffic artery to the hospital complex, through the Children’s Hospital construction site and down into the lowest level of the existing hospital to reach its final destination.

A core team was identified to work closely with the client to first understand their needs, then develop a solution to not only meet, but exceed their expectations. The end result will not only provide power to the Children’s Hospital already being built, but has the ability to expand to provide power as the hospital continues to grow.

Shive-Hattery is a 370-person architecture and engineering firm with offices in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and West Des Moines, Iowa; Bloomington, Chicago, and Moline, Illinois; and Valparaiso, Indiana. For more information, visit www.shive-hattery.com.