in the Loop

Campus Buildings Connect to Cool

The Institute of Living is a living legend in Hartford. Founded on the south end in 1822, the 35-acre campus was one of the first mental health centers in the United States and the first hospital of any kind in Connecticut. Today the Institute of Living consists of 23 buildings and is an integral part of Hartford Hospital, separated only by Retreat Avenue.

Last year the Institute of Living completed a new main entrance project, which brought the campus a new entrance along Retreat Avenue and more of a physical connection with the Hartford Hospital main campus on the north side of the street as well as wider roadways and additional parking spaces. All of the campus is heated with steam generated at TEN's cogeneration plant. In addition, TEN Companies installed a hot water generating facility on the northeast sector of the campus, adjacent to the new entrance. From the state-of-the-art facility, TEN installed hot water and chilled-water lines on the campus perimeter and across Washington Street to provide full service to the Learning Corridor project as well.

With the chilled-water lines in place, TEN Companies was in a position to serve district cooling service to two campus buildings starting in spring 2003: the 16,000-sq-ft Whitehall Building and the 11,000-sq-ft Stearns Building.

"We're pleased to have chilled-water service available on the Institute of Living campus," says Emil Sapere Jr., associate director of facilities development, fire and environmental safety for Hartford Hospital. "Hartford Hospital is already using TEN's chilled-water service, so we thought it made sense to unify the development of new projects on the Hartford Hospital's main campus and Institute of Living south campus whenever possible so they use similar utility services as much as possible."

The two-story Whitehall Building began chilled-water service after a total renovation and addition was completed in May 2003. Designed by famed Hartford architect George Keller and built in 1888, the English tudor-style structure is the new home of the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center. The new addition and renovation was demanding and exacting: It had to ensure the architectural integrity of the original structure as well as meet the technological demands of the new research center. But the result was rewarding. In May 2003 the facility received the Jeffrey S. Czopor Preservation Award from the Hartford Preservation Alliance.

Since the Stearns Building is located near the Whitehall Building and needed new air-handling equipment, the

more

Built in 1888, the Whitehall Building is home to the latest research developments in neuropsychiatry and is one of the newest TEN chilled-water customers.

Now served by district cooling, the Stearns Building houses a part of the Hartford Hospital's daycare center, a longstanding employee benefit.

Institute of Living took advantage of the timing and connected the building to the chilled-water system. The Stearns Building houses the hospital's Information Services Networking Group and part of the hospital's employee daycare center, which has been in operation for a number of years.

TEN Companies is pleased to have the opportunity to provide district cooling service to these two buildings on the prestigious Institute of Living campus. Welcome aboard!

Minding Your Delta Ts

Back-to-school sales have started, but don't let that fool you. We have plenty of warm weather ahead. So TEN Companies wants to continue to be vigilant about chilled-water supply to your building and help you use it as efficiently – and cost-effectively – as possible.

You've probably heard us talk before about Delta T. Delta T is the difference between the chilled-water supply temperature and the chilled-water return temperature. Ideally, Delta T should be a minimum of 16 degrees F.

But why the concern about Delta T? Because proper Delta T saves everyone money and ensures greater energy efficiency. If the Delta T is too low, more water needs to be pumped throughout the chilled-water system, increasing system pumping charges – and thus your chilled-water bill. Plus, TEN Companies' equipment is not used to its design capacity, which makes for less-than-efficient operations.

So to keep help chilled-water costs down, please take a close look at your building's Delta T. What was it during July? At least 16 F? If not, check to see if your coils are clear, if the discharge air thermostats are calibrated and set properly, and if your control valves close properly. Also look for three-way control valves and change them out to two-way valves wherever possible. TEN Companies representatives would be happy to stop by and answer your questions and take a closer look at what you might do to help increase system efficiencies – both inside your building and throughout the chilled-water system.

Did you know…

'The dog days of summer' are considered the period between July and early September when the hot, sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the Northern Hemisphere. The dog reference apparently dates back to ancient star-gazers. They named constellations after animals, including two after dogs: Canis Major and Canis Minor. The brightest star in Canis Major is Sirius (the Dog Star), one of the brightest stars in the night sky. Because the star is so bright, Romans thought the earth received heat from it. Since this star rises and sets with the sun during the summer, and by July they are in conjunction, the ancient Europeans believed that together the sun and Sirius created a stretch of hot humid weather. Therefore, they named this period 'dog days' after the Dog Star.

It's not too early to start thinking about activating your steam service, calibrating your controls and scheduling a steam trap survey. Get ready for winter now!

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