

# Research and Enterprise Building (REAC 1)



## Grand Forks, North Dakota

**Electrical Construction:** \$1.55 Million

**Year Completed:** 2010

**Project Manager:** Vern Thingvold

**Project Foreman:** Allen Thingvold

**Architect:** Perkins & Will

**General Contractor:** PCL Construction

Located on the campus of the University of North Dakota, this two-story, 40,000 square foot building provides labs and other facilities for various research companies. Owned by the UND Research Foundation, the facility cost an estimated \$20 million to complete.

Bergstrom Electric served as a subcontractor to PCL Construction on the project and installed a 2,000 amp/ 480V 3 phase service with a 250 KW generator for emergency power. Over 750 light fixtures, about 100,000 feet of conduit, and about 300,000 feet of wire were also installed in the building.

Because of the sensitive nature of the research taking place in the building, there was a high-tech card-access security system installed as well as a very elaborate air handling system to keep research facilities clean.

There were several different challenges for the Bergstrom team as the project progressed. First, crews started work in the winter and had to trench after the first snow, when frost had

already gone into the ground. Luckily, Bergstrom Electric owns the special equipment needed to do wintertime trenching, and specializes in this “out-of-season” work.

A second challenge was, there was a large amount of vacant, unoccupied space in the plans when the project was bid, which only required temporary lighting in those areas. However, those spaces soon filled up, which required numerous change-orders to the project so that the each room was wired appropriately. Bergstrom staff had to be very clear about which contract or changeorder they were working on at any given time, to ensure adequate book-keeping.

Finally, research started in some of the finished spaces before the wiring was complete in other areas of the building. This required Bergstrom employees to wear special suits, similar to hazardous material suits complete with full hoods and respirators, to ensure cleanliness at all times. Bergstrom employees were also issued security access cards to use throughout the project because of the sensitive nature of the research being conducted there.

The project was complete in March of 2010.



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