

NEWS RELEASE

Boiler at Beacon Plants Gets a Summertime Overhaul

(Detroit, MI) - Reliability and efficiency are top priorities at Detroit Thermal, LLC - which is why the company undertook a complete re-tube of Beacon Heating's boiler #1 this summer.

"Boiler #1 is designed to produce 450,000 pounds of steam an hour," said Roosevelt King, Detroit Thermal plant manager, "but the tubes inside had been patched and repaired so many times, and some had corroded so badly, that the boiler wasn't operating efficiently. It could not produce at full capacity."

Some tubes leaked and others had been plugged because they were no longer strong enough to hold water at the boiler's normal operating pressure. Not only was the boiler not operating at full capacity, it was also losing a lot of water.

"Water leaks are wasteful," King explained. "They drive up our water bill and force the boiler to use more fuel to generate steam."

Investing for Long-Term Reliability

Under King's direction, Detroit Thermal made a large investment to fix boiler #1 for the long term. The repairs included putting new tubes and insulation inside the boiler and installing a combustion control system. The entire project was timed so as to be completed well before the peak of the coming heating season.

The eight-story boiler holds 2,400 seamless metal tubes that range in length from 25 to 40 feet. They are bent in intricate patterns and tightly fitted into five thick drums. The tubes are so long that a hole had to be cut in the side of the boiler to get the old tubes out and the new tubes in.

The project also included redoing the insulation on the inside of the boiler. The old insulation was removed and new insulation installed.

Ensuring Good Service

King and other Detroit Thermal employees worked closely with contractors to make sure that the entire project was completed during the summer, when steam loads were down and the plant's other boilers could easily meet customer needs.

"Detroit Thermal is committed to providing steam service our customers can count on, and we're committed to doing it in the most efficient way possible," King said. "The work on boiler #1 ensures its reliability and its efficiency for many years to come."

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