

NEWS RELEASE

A grand old boiler yields to its modern successors

(Detroit, MI) - In its day, boiler Number 5 was the pride of Beacon Heating Plant. The 15-story-tall boiler was one of the largest coal-fired boilers in the world. But boiler Number 5's place in history - and in Detroit's district heating operation - has passed and it is being replaced with more efficient boilers, as part of Detroit Thermal's modernization program.

New boilers more efficient

Recently, demolition teams cut apart the huge boiler, and soon, part of a wall of the heating plant will be opened up to allow for the removal of boiler Number 5 and the installation of two smaller boilers.

These new boilers will improve the efficiency of the plant, especially during periods of low demand for steam. They use less fuel when they are "banked" - that is, in a stand-by mode - yet they can reach full load very quickly when necessary.

Installation begun

At a recent ceremony nearly 150 guests, including representatives of Wayne County and many customers, watched as a symbolic wall came tumbling down to mark the beginning of the installation process. They also toured the plant and attended a reception with Detroit Thermal executives.

"The demolition of boiler Number 5 and the installation of new boilers are key components in our long-term strategy for improving the steam generation system," said Chuck French, Detroit Thermal president and general manager. "We are pleased to be moving forward quickly and glad to be able to share our excitement with our customers."

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