

As all the World Watches

NOAA's new facility, constructed by Mona Electric, will enable the agency to further its global impact while perfecting its work and research here at home.

> **Every minute** of every day, the work of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) affects the lives of people all around the globe. The scientists and researchers at NOAA are responsible for daily weather forecasts, long-term and Travis Dyer and Edward Stewart short-range storm warnings and predictions, climate monitoring, coastal restoration and support of marine commerce. It is because of NOAA that our local weather reporter tells us to run out and buy a new shovel and it is because of NOAA that tornado warnings can sound well in advance of immediate danger giving residents an opportunity to seek shelter.



 1_{\odot} the magazine of ibew local 26, serving maryland, virginia and washington, dc



As NOAA evolves technologically, so too must its facilities. With a presence in every state and specialty facilities around the country, NOAA seeks out locations that will marry its world-class team of scientists and researchers with the finest in the world of academia. So, when a state-of-the-art facility was slated for construction adjacent to the University of Maryland, NOAA knew it would be a perfect fit for its Center for Weather and Climate Prediction. Another perfect fit came from the men and women of Mona Electric, who came on the job at just the right time, bringing the level of skill that the project needed.

Located on a 50-acre parcel of land known as the University of Maryland's M-Square Research and Technology Park, NOAA's new home was designed by architects Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc., who designed the building with "green" in mind. In fact, the building's design has earned the U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver Certification. The building includes an abundance of natural sunlight, a waterfall that is created from runoff rainwater and a "green roof" that is covered with vegetation.

Opus East, LLC of Rockville, MD, is not only serving as the general contractor on the project but is also the building's owner from whom NOAA has a long-term lease. Ground broke on the project in March of 2006 with many dignitaries on site for the ceremony, including Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Steny Hoyer. In October of 2007, our own Local 26 members working for Clinton, MD-based Mona Electric Group, Inc. came on site. From the minute they took to the job, the Mona crew proved the value of union labor.

The Mona team, under the leadership of Foreman Jeff Pawlak and Subforemen George West, Johnny Mister and Richard Yuracka, got right to work bringing the project on schedule. Currently, 60 Local 26 members are on the job which is expected to have its first phase completed in April of this year, with completion of the second phase due this coming July.

> Mona's work on the over 200,000-square-foot office building and adjacent parking garage includes installation of two switchboards, two UPS systems, three



Edison Reategui and Steve Wade



From left, George West, Joseph Austin and Belayneh Seifu



15kwt generators, one 800kw generator, the fire alarm system and more than 3,000 feet of bus duct. In total, Mona's electrical package is expected to top \$20 million. The building's design includes a raised floor which means that the Mona team is also responsible for installing all of the under floor furniture wiring for the tenant. The curved design of the building, while beautiful, has posed a unique challenge to the Local 26 crew in that all of the conduit piping needs to be run at a radius instead of a straight line.

Foreman Jeff Pawlak had high praise for the work of the men and women from Local 26. "The Local 26 crew provided skilled craftsmanship and enabled the job to run as smoothly as possible," he said. Certainly everyone else on site would also agree that Mona Electric has been a valuable asset to the project.

With the sensitivity of NOAA's work, there is simply no room for less than perfect construction on their building. After all, the research that comes out of NOAA quite literally affects the entire world. Mona Electric has proven that they are up to the challenge of constructing NOAA's new world-class facility, and they can do it using the skills and integrity they learned as *union* craftsmen and women.



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