



South Campus Central Chiller Plant at The Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio



The main structure of the 10-story South Campus Central Chiller plant is comprised of all galvanized structural steel. Corrosion is not an option for this structure, as the galvanized steel will be responsible for holding up thousands of tons of HVAC and chiller equipment for the years to come. The structure will face varying internal and external temperature extremes, as it will be tasked to chill water in the heat of summer and the cold of winter in an urban Midwest environment. The selection of hot-dip galvanizing was integral to the success of the project.

The Chiller Project required just-in-time delivery in an extremely confined construction space. The galvanizer was tasked with delivering the proper segments of the fabricated steel on the corresponding day of steel erection. The steel was literally removed from the truck and put directly into place - some of the material was still warm from galvanizing in order to meet the project timeline. Each load of the 1200 tons typically spent less than 24 hours at the galvanizing plant before being delivered to the site. The steel erector and construction manager were amazed by the seamless process, from fabrication to galvanizing to delivery.

As the sun glares through the artistic glass incorporated into the concrete screen wall of the South Campus Central Chiller Plant, very few will know the strength and protection provided by the

galvanizing on the heavy structural steel holding the screenwall and building in place. Those who helped in designing and erecting this building will have the added comfort of knowing the structure will be intact and corrosion-free for years to come.

The mission of this building is to provide chilled water for the cooling and HVAC units for the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The facilities and engineering department has a monumental responsibility in helping to keep the patients at the hospital comfortable when it comes to climate control. Their ability to stay focused on the operation of the chiller plant rather than have to worry about corrosion problems or touching up an elaborate paint system only helps to make their job a little easier. Their choice was to galvanize.



Galvanizer

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