Most Outstanding Infrastructure Project

University of Utah Campus Wide Electrical Distribution Upgrade

This $85 million project is arguably the most important design and construction project on the U’s sprawling 1,500-acre campus in recent memory, as it upgraded and replaced a more than 50-year-old electrical system, one that services the main campus and adjacent medical care and research facilities.

The engineering team made significant revisions to the IEEE ‘Gold Book’ based on statistical calculations that allowed for both quantitative and qualitative analysis to ensure best results. Construction crews faced challenges of having to replace unreliable and unsafe infrastructure in many key areas, while minimizing disruption to a campus that services 32,000 students, faculty and staff.

A new core duct bank was installed to ensure the backbone links between three substations to increase reliability and redundancy of the system, while allowing for easier future upgrades and repairs. Medium voltage switches and transformers were moved above ground and placed in gated enclosures. Three voltages were consolidated, bringing the campus to 12,470 volts, with every building having the ability to switch between two separate substations.

Owner/Developer: State of Utah/University of Utah
Lead Design Firm: Spectrum Engineers
General Contractor: Layton Construction
Electrical Engineer: Spectrum Engineers
Sub-consultants: Envision Engineering (Electrical), Chilcote Engineering (Substation), GSBS Architects (Incidental Architecture, Landscape Design)
Civil Engineer: PSOMAS
Substation Engineering: Chilcote Engineering
Incidental Architecture & Landscape: GSBS Architects
Electrical Subcontractor: Probst Electric; Wasatch Electric
Other: Ted Siri Construction

(photos courtesy Spectrum Engineers)
If words don’t carry enough weight, this will.

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