

April 2011— June 2011



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COP CHRONICLE

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY CLEARWELL BAFFLE PROJECT Billings, Montana

COP Construction LLC was awarded the Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Baffle Project on January 10, 2011 in the amount of \$936,852.00 by the City of Billings.

The Project consists of installing a baffle system in two separate 5.2 million-gallon clearwells that are 60 feet tall and 125 feet in diameter at the Billings Water Treatment Facility. Each clearwell receives three baffles that will channel treated water in a serpentine pattern which increases the chlorine contact time. One completed clearwell will process enough water to supply the City of Billings in high demand periods, which in the past, required both clearwells. The baffles, supplied by Environetics, Inc. of Illinois, are 57 feet high and 80 to 105 feet in length, depending on the location in the clearwell.

The Project began on March 1, 2011. Start-up was delayed due to 8 to 10 inches of ice on walls and 14 inches of ice on the floor. A 10 foot by 10 foot access opening was cut into the wall of Clearwell #2 through the 1" thick plate steel wall. Baffles were laid out, and mounting hardware was welded to the walls, floor, and roof. The baffles are constructed of polypropylene flexible geomembrane. These were hoisted into place using a pulley system and hand labor to raise the baffles 57 feet and cable to the roof anchor supports. Once the baffles were completed, the access opening was closed and welded back in place. Clearwell #2 was turned back over to the City of Billings on May 20, 2011 and put back in service. Work is ongoing on Clearwell #1 at this time.

Morrison-Maierle is the Engineer for the Project, and Project Manager for the City is Travis Harris. COP's Project team consists of Joe Allen, Project Manager, Neil Buckingham, Superintendent, Johnny Biesheuvel and Bill Zupanik.



City crew breaking up 14 inches of ice on floors before project could begin.

Photo by Neil Buckingham



Inlet pipe inside clearwell with ice build-up on walls.

Photo by Neil Buckingham

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From the desk of the President –



I last wrote about my view of the economy in the October 2009–December 2009 Chronicle. At that time, I stated that I thought we would start to see a rebound in the latter part of 2010. While 2010 turned out to be a relatively good year for COP in terms of revenue and profitability, our backlog going into 2011 was the lowest in the recent history of the Company. The good news is that our bidding and negotiation efforts in the first two quarters of 2011 have produced the largest dollar volume of contract awards in the history of the Company for that same period in years past. As a result, we are optimistic that the economy will slowly but consistently continue to improve.

The challenges of a tight economy in 2009 and 2010 have caused us to evaluate how we do business and, as a result, I believe the changes that have been made will continue to make COP a stronger company going forward. Our goal is to make COP the best of the best. With dedication to training and a continued effort to work smarter, COP will be positioned to take advantage of the ever increasing opportunities that exist with an improving economy. I can't emphasize enough the importance of accurate bidding and a thorough pre-planning process prior to the start of construction. Generally, the most successful projects are those that are evaluated, dissected, and rescheduled in the planning stage.

In summary, I believe that 2011 will provide very good opportunities that will allow both COP and its employees to continue to grow on that road to be the best of the best.



MEET THE FACES OF COP



Joe Allen
Project Manager



Neil Buckingham
Superintendent

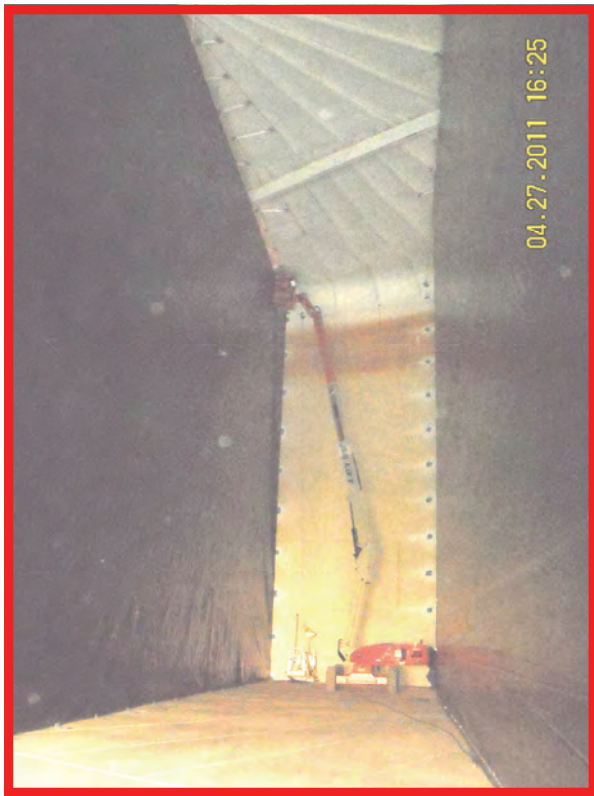


Johnny Biesheuvel



Bill Zupanik

Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Baffle Project



Final adjustments to baffle hanger on Baffle #2.
Photo by Joe Allen



Welding bar onto the rafters used to support the baffle.
Photo by Joe Allen

Water Treatment Facility
Clearwell Baffle Project



10' x 10' access opening cut into wall
of clearwell. Photo by Joe Allen



Neil Buckingham next to Baffle #2.
Photo by Joe Allen

Hoisting baffles into place.
Photo by Joe Allen



SUMMER THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING DANGERS

Sitting in the backyard under a tree, coaching soccer in a neighborhood field, walking uphill seeking better cell phone reception or working downtown laying new water lines: in 2010 people doing everyday activities like these were struck and killed by lightning, the second leading cause of storm-related deaths in the United States.

There is NO safe place outside during a thunderstorm. When you see clouds build up, the best thing you can do is start looking for safety, because if you hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. The best shelter is a house or other fully enclosed building. An enclosed vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a good second choice. During a storm, do not touch electrical equipment, heavy equipment, corded telephones or plumbing fixtures such as showers or sinks – all of these can conduct electricity. Stay away from windows and doors. And stay put for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard.

If you have to be outside, check the weather forecast. Lightning tends to strike tall objects in an open area. If you're outside in a sports field or on a spoil pile, for example, that could be you!! It is important to think ahead and take action at the first sign of possible lightning. Not heeding the warning signs could be a tragic mistake.

Chris Cull, Safety Manager



CONGRATULATIONS, DENNIS, ON YOUR 40 YEARS WITH COP – MAY 15



I began working for COP in May of 1971 as a Laborer on two bridges at West Thumb in Yellowstone National Park, WY. I lived in my car, cooked on a Coleman stove and bathed in the creek for about a month until COP brought in a bunkhouse type trailer for the crew to stay in. That summer I started operating a track-type loader backhoe doing excavation and backfill for the bridge. Nights after work with instructions from the Superintendent, Jim Brook, I would practice running the 28-ton truck mounted crane we had on the jobsite. As the season was short in the Park, we worked 12 hour days 7 days a week, and we were only given time off for the 4th of July weekend that year. We completed the deck pour on the first bridge on 9-17-71, and that weekend it snowed 22 inches.

From 1972 to 1983 I worked under various Superintendents as an Operator and/or Foreman on projects from Bondurant, WY to Midwest, WY to Columbia Falls, MT, as well as a concrete superintendent on many bridges, treatment plants and pipe projects throughout Montana and Wyoming. During this period, our family moved 10 times in one year. In 1979, I was recognized by the company as Superintendent of the Year.

Sue and I were married in December 1973; our son, Michael, was born in October 1978. As it was getting close for the time for him to start school, we built our home in Billings and moved into it in August 1984. What a welcome change it was to not be constantly moving from project to project.

From August 1983 to July 1984 I was Vice President, General Superintendent, and Estimator. Beginning in August of 1984 through 1998, my duties included Vice President, Lead Estimator, and Project Manager in charge of all operations, including the shop, yard and transport, moving to the positions of Project Manager and Senior Project Manager in the Billings office in the latter part of 1998 to June of 2004.

July 2004 through October 2009 I was a Project Manager in the North Salt Lake office for five years. During this time COP Wyoming LLC was formed and a branch office opened in Rock Springs. Sue and I returned to Billings in late 2009 with me resuming my duties as a Senior Project Manager.

Our grandson, Declan, spends his summers with us. Sue, Mike and I enjoy our time with him, especially fishing and tying flies. Declan is very creative and loves to build things, so we all have fun watching and learning as he completes a new project each summer.

Some of the more notable Projects I have worked on as a Foreman, Superintendent, or Project Manager include ~

- West Thumb & Thumb Creek Bridges, YNP, WY
- Gardiner Wastewater Plant, Gardiner, MT
- Fishing Bridge Wastewater Plant, YNP, WY
- Newlan Creek Dam Spillway, Bridge & Outlet Works near White Sulphur Springs, MT
- Flathead River Bridge, Columbia Falls, MT
- 11 bridges in the St. Regis, MT area for the Interstate System
- Old Faithful Water Treatment Plant, YNP, WY
- Casper Airport Concrete Paving, Casper, WY
- Billings Airport Concrete Paving, Billings, MT
- Green River Streets Concrete Paving, Green River, WY
- Cooney Dam Bridge & Baffled Outlet Works near Boyd, MT
- Ruby River Bridges near Alder, MT
- Rattlesnake Pipeline, Hanna, WY
- West Cody Sewer, Cody, WY
- Montana Ave. Overpass Deck Reconstruction, Billings, MT
- Riverton Streets, Riverton, WY
- Beaver Creek Bridge, Thompson Falls, MT
- East Bridge, Billings, MT
- Pablo Dam, Pablo, MT
- East Canyon Trunk Sewer, Park City, UT
- 71 bridges from 1971 through 1995



P.O. Box 20913 Billings, MT 59104

YEARS OF SERVICE

January

Dan Dodge	28
Rick Morrison	16
Mike Anderson	10
Doug Teller	6
Dave Jarman	2

February

Johnny Biesheuvel	9
Tobin McFarlane	3

March

Tracy Kaercher	20
Neil Buckingham	18
Dave Davidson	18
Dave Loyning	15
Debbie Mitchell	15
Shan Laurie	10
Anthony Gentile	8
Jan Bramble	6
Craig Olson	3

April

Larry Brunmeier	18
John May	15
Chris Cull	9

May

Dennis McPherson	40
Donna Kuntz	16
Ray Speed	11
Joe Allen	9
Rod Braegger	3
Joe Dolan	2

June

Bruce Rost	16
Tanya Brown	12
Clarence Weber	8
Mike Huff	6
Ron Batt	5
Greg Schied	2
Kash Tacke	1

CONGRATULATIONS !!

