

2004

Two Thousand Four

Case Histories

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Hospital, Contractor Discover Long-Term Solution For Grease And Waste Systems

In a kitchen that serves over 2,000 meals a day, one thing that has to function well is the drainage system serving the drains and equipment in the kitchen. The kitchen that serves Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, a regional hospital in southwest Georgia, is located directly over the materials department that contains bandages, scrubs and other medical supplies for the entire facility. The drainage system cannot afford any miscues.

The cast-iron drainage system had been renovated twice since its original installation in 1963, the last time being about five years ago. However, leaks had already begun to develop again, damaging the medical supplies and causing thousands of dollars in ruined and discarded supplies. The hospital facilities staff began to search for a product to install that would prevent these "regular" piping replacements.

The hospital had become familiar with the Blücher-Josam stainless waste system; however, they needed a qualified contractor for the installation. Through a reference from a mechanical engineering firm, Greene & Associates made contact with the hos-



pital. Greene & Associates reviewed the scope of work with the hospital, got copies of the original drawings, and spent several hours doing field surveys of the existing system.

The product, manufactured in Denmark, is very well-suited for this type of application. The corrosion-resistant factor of stainless-steel and the smooth surface of the piping material should eliminate much of the problems that the hospital had experienced in the past.

Greene & Associates reached a fixed price agreement with Phoebe Putney for the installation. All work had to be done at night, between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Since the area

where the piping was being replaced was occupied during the day, the area had to be completely cleaned up prior to leaving for the day, with no materials or equipment left in the area.

Also, in the materials management area, mobile racks were removed and plastic petitions and coverings were erected prior to starting work. However, these temporary measures had to be undone daily. There could be no sign of the contractors having been there the night before.

The project took approximately five weeks to complete. Greene & Associates had a bit of a learning curve working with the "Push-Fit" piping system, as installation above ground requires thorough bracing at turns and bends to prevent the gasketed joint from moving. Other than that, the company found the stainless-steel system to be a lightweight product that was easy to work with.

The project was completed within the specified timeframe, and the hospital is very satisfied with the finished installation and pleased to find a product that offers a long-term solution to its kitchen's drainage waste problem.

Circle 310