At the Top of Its Class

Lincoln University

Southeast Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

In January 2005, Lincoln University, in southeast Pennsylvania, began experiencing growing construction delays during erection of a new student residence building. Weather delays along with minor design changes combined to backup subcontractor schedules and force the project into serious time constraints. Needing to make up precious time, the project manager and contractors turned to the Victaulic PermaLynx push-to-connect copper mechanical joining system.

The PermaLynx system allows contractors to join copper tube by hand – without dangerous flame or expensive tools. PermaLynx installs more than 60 percent faster than sweating copper and up to 20 percent faster than pressing copper.

"PermaLynx was the only system that could meet the schedule," said John Thompson, Director, Office of the Physical Plant, Lincoln University. "It was architect approved. We had every confidence it would work."

CHALLENGES

In addition to the time constraints, installers were faced with a tight piping layout that made certain areas challenging for piping installation. The use of traditional sweat copper methods would have caused even further delays in the already compromised schedule.

Mechanical contractor for the project, John Sobieski of J.F. Sobieski Mechanical Contractor & Fire Protection Systems, used PermaLynx copper fittings and valves in sizes ½", ¾" and 1" including tees, elbows, couplings, reducers, reducing tees, threaded adapters and service (street) fittings for the dormitory's water services.

"Panel-based construction kept my crew out until the building was completely erected. Then we had to install the entire building on an accelerated schedule," said Sobieski. "Halfway in, two weeks were cut from our schedule for the framers. The speed of PermaLynx let my crew really step it up to finish on schedule."

PERMALYNX EARNS TOP MARKS

According to project managers, the crew realized multiple benefits of using PermaLynx in early stages of construction – ease of installation, elimination of burn hazards and ability to manipulate fittings in various orientations to accommodate other structural, plumbing and electrical component obstacles.

Installers quickly found PermaLynx products to be beneficial for pre-fabrication of piping assemblies that could be mass-produced in a fabrication shop and then transported to the job site. This timesaving feature

was immediately evident. The labor savings benefits of PermaLynx were also realized as the contractor and his installers found new and clever ways of using the push-on valves and pipe-end preparation tools, setting up an "assembly-line" approach to installing the system to gain valuable productivity and consistency.

The crews took the insights they learned on the first phase of the project and applied them with greater precision to the second phase for a smooth, hassle-free installation that produced a superior domestic water services system and got the entire project back on schedule.

"PermaLynx played a big part in helping us finish on time," said Thompson. "And this project was new construction. Where we see an even greater benefit with the PermaLynx system is in making repairs to the many older structures on campus."

"[PermaLynx] allows us to go in and repair older piping systems quickly, easily, safely, eliminating fire hazards and with little disturbance to the students," explained Thompson. "The PermaLynx system has proven to be a real asset to the university."

OWNER:

Lincoln University

CONTRACTOR:

J.F. Sobieski Mechanical Contractor & Fire Protection Systems

SOLUTIONS:

PermaLynx fittings and valves in sizes ½", ¾" and 1" (including tees, elbows, couplings, reducers, reducing tees, threaded adapters and service fittings)

COMPLETED DATE:

April 2005

WCAS-7ELFJC