

# Air Traffic Control Tower/RAPCON - GFAFB



The old traffic control tower is demolished in July of 2010 after the new state-of-the-art tower became operational.

The US Air Force monitors and controls all civilian commercial air traffic in the upper Midwest region from the Grand Forks Air Force Base. To improve the base's ability to track aircraft, a new Air Traffic Control Tower with a RAPCON (Radar Approach Control Facility) was constructed in 2009-2010 at a total project cost of approximately \$12.5 Million.

Bergstrom Electric was the Electrical Contractor on this design/build project and began work in May of 2009. The electrical system was an 800 amp/277-480 volt with total generator backup along with 20 branch subpanels. The large number of subpanels were necessary to handle the extensive amount of circuitry required in the radar system.

This project included extensive site work which entailed



## Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND

**Electrical Construction:** \$1,560,000

**Year Completed:** 2010

**Project Manager:** Vern Thingvold

**Project Foremen:** Allen Thingvold

**Architect:** PBS & J

**General Contractor:** Community Contractors



View of the old tower from the roof of the new one.

electrical man-holes, duct bank systems, high voltage switching, primary transformers, primary conductors and terminations, as well as, fiber optics and copper cabling for communication systems.

The 136 foot tall control tower was made of precast concrete panels. The construction of the tower presented a slight scheduling challenge for Bergstrom, as our crews were onsite and completed all the underground work, but then could not be onsite for the next two months while the tower was being constructed for safety reasons.

Bergstrom crews completed the work in August of 2010. It took a little less than 8,000 man-hours to complete the electrical design and construction on this impressive facility and state-of-the-art tower.

