

# Ojibwa Millennium Elementary School



## Belcourt, North Dakota

**Electrical Construction:** \$1.8 Million

**Year Completed:** 2008

**Project Manager:** James Schmidt

**Project Foreman:** Kendrick Kjorsvik

**Architect:** Johnson Laffen Galloway

**General Contractor:** Kraus-Anderson,  
Bemidji, MN

Serving approximately 290 elementary school students, the 119,000 square foot Ojibwa Millennium Elementary School cost \$22 million and took over 2 years of construction to complete. Originally designed to be the first LEED project in ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the project had to undergo extensive value-engineering to meet budget, ultimately losing its LEED distinction.

Bergstrom Electric was a subcontractor to general contractor Kraus-Anderson and started work in April of 2006. The electrical system included a 3000amp, 277/480volt 3 phase service with an emergency generator system that will run the vital systems of the building in the event of a power outage. The project included 20.5 miles of conduit, 52.1 miles of wire, and over 1100 light fixtures.

After bids for the new school came in over budget, Bergstrom worked extensively with the architect, general contractor, and electrical engineer to develop cost-saving measures and produced a new set of plans and specs showing

the value engineered items. Bergstrom was able to make several changes to save the Turtle Mountain Tribe of Chippewa Indians significant money, including switching from copper to aluminum conductors for loads of 200amps or greater, reducing light fixture amounts and types, and over 150 other miscellaneous electrical items that added up to approximately \$500,000 in project savings.

The greatest challenge of the project was getting adequate manpower to the very rural project location. Bergstrom was concurrently building the \$21 Million Turtle Mountain High School in the same area and getting the required number of experienced electricians to both sites proved to be a major undertaking for Bergstrom's office staff.

Our electricians were transported from Bergstrom's Grand Forks, Fargo, and Bismarck offices, stayed in hotels in the area, and then brought home every weekend. Coordinating manpower and accommodations for Bergstrom employees for these two major projects over the course of two years was a challenge.

The project required over 18,600 man-hours, with a peak load of 15 electricians on site at one time. It was substantially complete in August of 2008.



 **BERGSTROM  
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