

# Illuminations

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## Hector Airport Gets A Facelift

It was in the fall of 1927 that Martin Hector leased a quarter-section of land to the City of Fargo for \$1 a year. That original agreement, and several subsequent gifts of land from the Hector family, were the beginnings of what is now the Hector International Airport in Fargo. Northwest Airlines began service to Hector Field in 1931, the same year that the airport was officially dedicated.

Fast forward 78 years and you will see contractors putting the finishing touches on a \$15 Million, 117,000 square foot expansion and renovation to the terminal, which greatly enhances the experience for the airport's 650,000 yearly passengers. The project increased the amount of room for the checkpoint area, added a fifth passenger gate and a 3rd baggage claim, plus additional space for airline operations.



**Above: The new Hector International Airport terminal after the renovation. The original Hector Field Terminal building is shown in the inset Below: An interior view of the new entrance to the Terminal. (pictures from fargoairport.com)**

Bergstrom Electric was proud to be selected as the electrical contractor for the project and started work in October of 2006. The project included a 2500 amp 277/480 volt electrical system and a 1250 Kilowatt generator as well as 72,880 feet of conduit, 215,530 feet of wire, and 1457 light fixtures.

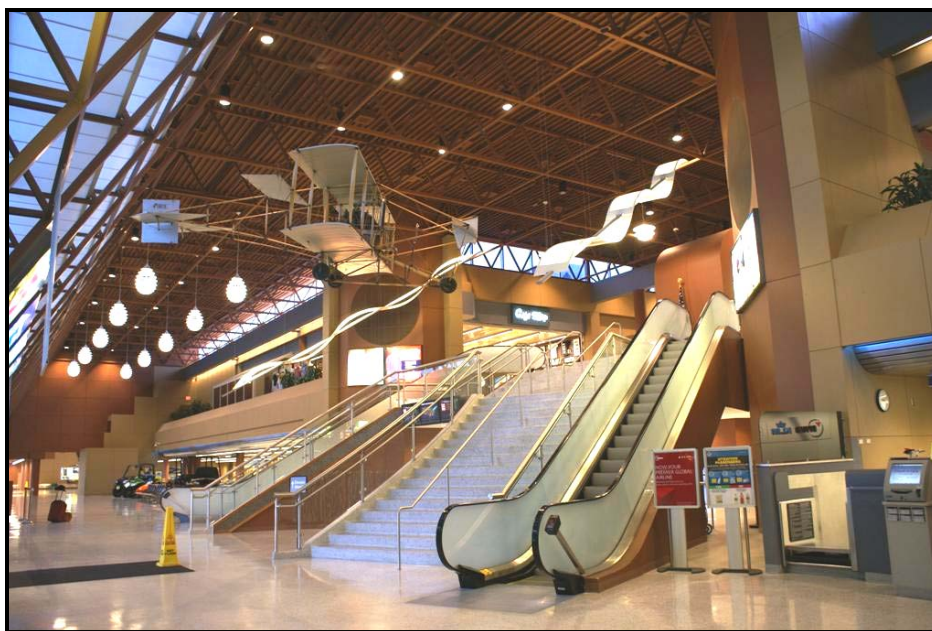
Somewhat unique to the project was the inclusion of a Lutron dimming system, which has light and motion sensors to control the lighting in the building. As more daylight enters an area, the system automatically dims the interior lights to maintain adequate illumination at the lowest cost. Motion sensors also turn lights on when there is activity in a room and shuts down lights when the room is not in use.

"The Lutron system was new to most of our guys," noted Paul Soderquist, who managed the project, along with Steve Mundahl. "But our two Foremen—Jason

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Steig and Adam Polasky—really immersed themselves in the technical manuals so they would know everything about the configuration. It's a complicated system, but the installation went off without a hitch because they did their homework and explained things well to our techs in the field."

Because the airport was in use throughout the project, Bergstrom employees had to get security clearance in order to do their work. They also got to witness a few unique flights.

"The Veterans Honor Flight flew out to Washington DC to see the new WWII Memorial



**Above: The newly remodeled baggage claim area. Inset: A remodeled waiting area.**

**Left: An exterior view of the new passenger gate under construction**



while we were out there," remembers Soderquist. "And we saw some veterans coming back from Iraq—that was neat to see their families and friends welcome them home."

The project took over 17,300 manhours and will be complete in May of 2009. ♦

## Spotlight on: **Vernon Thingvold**



Born in Rugby, ND and raised on a farm near Martin, ND, Vernon Thingvold received a degree in Electrical Technology from the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton and has been with Bergstrom Electric since 1992. Vernon serves as a project manager on our team and his family includes three sons who are all electricians, five grandchildren, aged 3 through 10 and his wife of 37 years.

**What are some of the projects you are currently working on?**

*The Interpretive Center at the International Peace Gardens, some fire alarm projects at UND, the Riverside Pool Renovation in Grand Forks, and the new Portal Border Crossing with U.S. Customs.*

**What was your most memorable project or experience at Bergstrom Electric?**

*The Carrington Pasta Plant, which was the largest and most complex project at the time. It had a tight time schedule and we were able to meet it successfully.*

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

*Estimating and getting the projects through completion.*

**Did you or do you have a mentor or person that inspired you?**

*My Dad—he taught us a good work ethic and to be honest with people.*

**What are your hobbies?**

*Fishing, Gardening, Hunting, and Chasing around my Grandchildren!*

**If you couldn't do your current job, what would you want to do instead?**

*I enjoyed growing up on a farm and think it could have been a good life.*

**Do you have a favorite TV Show?**  
MASH

**What would be your dream vacation?**

*Probably going back to the Caribbean again. ♦*

# Bergstrom Rises to the Challenge on Devils Lake Project

Coming aboard a project that's already under construction can be a challenge for an electrical contractor. Early decisions and work by other trades can affect how the electricians do their job and working under the gun can be stressful when everyone is waiting for you to catch up.

That was the case for the Holiday Inn Express in Devils Lake. Located along US Highway 2, the 35,000 square foot project already had 3 stories built when Bergstrom was brought on board.

Owner Myron Kaeding was initially hesitant about Bergstrom's ability to pull off the job and get the project back on schedule, but he notes, "My doubts were erased early one Monday morning when a Bergstrom van pulled up and all these red shirts got out and started working." As Kaeding witnessed, Bergstrom can mobilize quickly and within two weeks on the job we caught up with the construction's progress.

The project itself is a nice addition to the community and includes:

- 60 guest rooms
- A Fitness center
- A Guest laundry facility,
- Several conference rooms,
- A Pool/hot tub area
- 12 King suite guest rooms, and
- A Business Center

All rooms in the facility are equipped

with granite counter tops, flat screen televisions, and wireless internet service throughout the facility.

Bergstrom Electric started work in April of 2008. Another one of the challenges of the job was helping to value-engineer the project within Kaeding's budget.

"We took a hard look at the plans and were able to find several ways to provide the same service for less," explains Darin Hall, Bergstrom's Project Manager. "We resized the service and feeders from a 2000 amp system to a 1200 amp system and designed it to install aluminum conductors rather than copper. At the time, copper was really expensive." Bergstrom's suggestions allowed the owner to shave almost \$10,000 of the total project cost.

The electrical system included a 1200amp, 208 volt, 3 phase service with 10 sub-panels. There was 55,000 feet of romex and 27,000 feet of low voltage cable pulled in the project, as well as 300 light fixtures.

Bergstrom crews completed the project in November of 2008 with a total of 3,336 man-hours of work. ♦



# Cliff Notes

## • Annual Employee Meeting

Bergstrom Electric held its 19th annual employee meeting on March 13th at the Alerus Center.

Our meeting is designed to provide all of our employees an update on our past years accomplishments, as well as an outlook for 2009. We review any policy changes that may have been adjusted or modified and hold an open-forum to discuss any opinions, concerns, questions or complaints that employees may have.

Presentations are given on our health care coverage, benefits, and retirement accounts. Our guest speaker provided us with entertainment and education with his topic of "Attitude Virus". This brought several laughs as well as enlightened us on how our attitudes plays a major role in our everyday lives, at work or at home.

One of the highlights of the meeting is when we recognize our employees

during our awards ceremony, acknowledging longevity for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, recognizing the 2009 IEC apprentice contestants and the IEC instructors, thanking our foremen training instructors and presenting certificates to the foremen training attendees.

The afternoon focuses around safety training and review of our safety policies, as well as recognition of employees who have been accident and injury free.

With the positive information being shared, we look forward to our annual employee meetings every year.

## • Equipment Training

Bergstrom Electric provides equipment training to all their employees on a yearly basis. There are two classes of equipment training, large and small.

The small equipment training ranges from the use of the hand benders to threaders and pullers. As for the large equipment training, this ranges from the use of the skid steers to trenchers and line-trucks.

We have our safety director and our experienced personnel help conduct the training. We go over the inspection of the equipment before use, the operation of the equipment, maintenance, and the proper personal protective equipment to use while operating the equipment.

These classes are mainly directed at new employees for their safety in the operation of the equipment, but also are an important refresher course for our experienced employees as well.

- Cliff Moen, President



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