

Central Plant

University Health Science Center

When an Army medical center was closed by Department of Defense as part of the Base Closure Program, the university acquired the hospital and surrounding land to create their Health Science Center. The remaining portions of the property and buildings were acquired by the city for their social services programs along with the central plant that had served the medical center.



The university decided to build a new central plant to serve the hospital and to interconnect its chilled water and steam systems to their existing campus systems. They further decided to privatize the cooling and heating services and have an outside energy utility company own and operate the plant and provide chilled water and steam as utilities to the campus.

The primary function of the 19,000 ton chilled water and 210,000 pph steam plant is to provide reliable, low cost heating and cooling utilities to the buildings on campus. AHP worked closely with engineers and the project architects to develop an aesthetic plant due to the visible location of the facility. Underground chilled water, steam, and condensate return distribution piping connect the plant to the campus.

The project delivery method was design-build with early design packages for major equipment, sitework, foundations and underfloor piping to allow delivery of chilled water and steam to the buildings in a very short time frame. The plants designed for an ultimate capacity of 19,000 tons; the initial phase will provide 5,000 tons. Heating capacity is 130 MMBTUH.

Completion Date

September 2004

Project Delivery Method

Design-Build-Own-Operate