

**Approximate Contract Value:** \$ 3.2 Million

**Project Description:**

S. P. McCarl & Company was responsible for the challenging mechanical equipment and system upgrades to the VA Medical Center in Altoona, PA. Various mechanical systems were in need of equipment replacement as well as the associated piping and controls with those systems.



Our company installed a new 800 ton chiller as well as cooling towers, 2 air handling units, heat exchangers, pumps, ATCs, and associated piping for the chilled water system. We also replaced the existing condensate water supply and return piping (both above and below grade). There were also modifications to the 4th floor exhaust systems of the hospital. This included installation of both duct work and associated controls.

**Technical Challenge:**

Phasing the project's construction schedule was vital to its success. To replace the permanent mechanical systems, temporary units and systems had to be in place prior to removal. A temporary chiller was set outside with temporary piping running into the building to provide chilled water to the hospital. Temporary air handling units were placed on the roof of the penthouse. The units had to be placed, ducted in and completely running prior to the removal of the existing units. Once temporary systems were running, crews removed the existing equipment and associated piping before installing the new equipment.



As with any hospital projects, coordination between the hospital and the entire construction team is vital to ensure that the project is completed in a safe and efficient manner. Construction work that was completed in occupied areas of the hospital required strict adherence to the hospital Methods of Procedures (MOP's) to minimize disruption to patients and medical staff.

