

# MENASHA UTILITIES UNDERGROUND STEAM

Menasha Utilities has provided power to Menasha, Wisconsin, since 1905. The utility recently converted a portion of their power plant into an industrial steam production facility, allowing them to sell low cost steam to neighboring paper mills, and selected Ahern to install the necessary process piping systems.



This \$650,000 plan and spec project involved the installation of 2,500 linear feet of both steam and condensate underground piping. Ahern installed a combination of stainless and carbon steel pipe, ranging from 1-1/2" to 10" in diameter. The steam piping, used to distribute steam to three neighboring paper mills, was heavily insulated to maintain thermal value, and layered with two outer jackets to protect the insulation from ground water. A fiber optic cable was also placed along the same route, which Menasha Utilities uses for electronic controls. The

condensate piping returns water back to the plants for reuse. Ahern also installed two nine-foot square man-holes to house isolation valves for the steam and branch line piping. Ahern's crew closely monitored the pre-fabricated piping and insulation deliveries, as well as the excavation schedule, to ensure an efficient installation process.

"Working with J. F. Ahern Co. has always been an enjoyable experience," said Dick Sturm, manager of steam production at Menasha Utilities. "Their quality workmanship and responsiveness to

our needs is very impressive. We are extremely happy with the results of the underground steam piping project, and look forward to working with Ahern on future projects."



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*Manager of  
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