

! Pipeline

J. F. Ahern Co. • Mechanical & Fire Protection Contractors Since 1880




Ahern Delivers
Big with
Small-Bore
Fabrication

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Ahern Moves Up on National Rankings


Ahern recently improved its rating with two national publications. *Plumbing & Mechanical (PM)* magazine listed Ahern 16th on its 2009 Pipe Trades Giants ranking, based on piping trades revenue of \$167 million in 2008. This places the Company three positions higher than last year. By trade, Ahern was listed the fourth largest fire protection contractor, and sixth largest water/wastewater treatment contractor. The Company also improved its status on *Engineering News-Record (ENR)* magazine's Top 600 Specialty Contractors list by three spots. Ahern was ranked 92nd with a total revenue of \$212 million in 2008, and was rated as the 17th largest mechanical contractor. 



AHERN JOINS ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ahern recently joined an advisory committee for the Southeastern Wisconsin Energy Technology Research Center (SWETRC). SWETRC is a collaborative initiative between the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), UW-Milwaukee, and Marquette University that is focused on researching solutions to today's growing energy demands. Ahern was requested to join this committee by MSOE Professor in Architectural Engineering and Building Construction Carol Diggelman, who knew of Ahern's expertise from yearly presentations the Company has conducted for her students.

"Our initial involvement with SWETRC will help develop sustainable asset renewal of existing buildings, with our research tests and upgrades being performed at a nearly 100-year-old building in Milwaukee," said Commissioning Team Leader Dick Wirt, who is representing Ahern on the advisory committee. "The first phase of research involves using BIM [Building Information Modeling] and sensors placed throughout the facility to identify the building systems' actual energy performance. After upgrading the building systems, we can then deliver measurable data to serve as a model for increasing the efficiency of similar facilities."

"The SWETRC collaboration is receiving a considerable amount of publicity on its strides towards energy conservation," said Commercial Contracting Executive Vice President Bob Fischer. "We are honored to be included on this advisory committee, and pleased to offer several capabilities and resources to further define the best practices in facility sustainability." 



J. F. Ahern Co. is a full-service mechanical and fire protection contractor. The Company's executive officers include:

John E. Ahern
Chairman

John E. "Tripp" Ahern III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Anthony J. Ahern
Executive Vice President
Pipe Fabrication

Ryan J. Bittner
CFO/Vice President Finance and
Corporate Services

Kenneth L. Collins
Executive Vice President
Ahern Fire Protection

Robert J. Fischer
Executive Vice President
Commercial Contracting

Alan R. Fox
Executive Vice President
Ahern Fire Protection

James R. Jarvis
Executive Vice President
Industrial Contracting



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Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action

J. F. Ahern Co. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. It is Ahern's policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or other basis prohibited by applicable local, state or federal fair employment laws. This policy applies to all personnel actions and activities, including recruitment, recruitment advertising, selection, hire, placement, training, apprenticeships, transfer, promotion, layoff and recall, rates of pay and other compensation, discipline and termination. This policy further is designed to ensure that there is no segregation of facilities or activities based upon race or other improper consideration.

J. F. Ahern Co. is also committed to an Affirmative Action program with regard to female and minority employees. The Company has instituted practices to remain in compliance with these regulations such as regular communication of EEO/AAP policies both internally and externally, including to all construction trade unions, referral agencies and sources, and subcontractors with whom we do business.

Our EEO/AAP policies are a matter of continuing interest and importance to all our employees. For that reason it is the policy that J. F. Ahern Co. officers and management personnel periodically review and, as appropriate, revise such policies to better promote equal employment opportunities and affirmative action.

The Company's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy is displayed in all buildings on bulletin boards. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Christine Adleman, EEOC Officer and Director of HR at (920) 907-5489 or cadleman@jfafern.com.

Ahern Commits to 'Buy-American' Requirements for Stimulus Projects

Ahern recently acquired several water/wastewater projects resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which is providing funding to upgrade Wisconsin's water/wastewater infrastructure. As the Company begins these projects, great emphasis is being placed on ensuring the 'Buy-American' specifications are met. The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring that stimulus projects receiving ARRA funding be constructed using only domestic materials and manufactured goods. While foreign materials are accepted if they undergo a substantial transformation domestically, such as being remanufactured into a completely new product, ARRA-funded jobs cannot procure goods from NAFTA (North American Free

Trade Agreement) or WTO (World Trade Organization) countries. Ahern must also have certification showing all materials used are American-made to protect itself in case of an audit.


"Compliance with this policy is requiring due diligence during all procurement phases," said Industrial Contracting Senior Project Manager David Le May, who is leading Ahern's Buy-American effort. "Our project and purchasing teams are all aware of the stringent procedures we must follow. While this adds extra steps to our processes, we are pleased that these projects are giving back to our own economy and creating work here in the U.S." 

Ahern-Installed Sprinklers Save Lives

Two recent fires were contained by Ahern-installed sprinklers. Only hours after being activated, the newly installed sprinkler system at 1815 Central Avenue in Minneapolis, Minnesota is credited with saving lives. A fire started in a tenant's kitchen, and was quickly extinguished by a sprinkler above the stove. Ahern's Twin Cities' office had just completed retrofitting the 25-story residential facility with fire protection, and restored the system to service the morning following the fire.

In Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, a recent fire at a 500,000 square-foot warehouse and distribution center was effectively controlled by four Ahern-installed fire sprinklers. The Company installed the original wet systems in 1996, and continues to provide annual inspections at this facility.

Approximately 200 employees occupied the building when the fire began, and were all evacuated safely. Ahern immediately replaced the four activated sprinkler heads, as well as two nearby heads as an added precaution.

"Although none of our employees were called to active duty for these fires, we had a hand in delivering an Ahern-installed system that limited the amount of damage to the facilities and ensured the safety of the occupants," commented Fire Protection Executive Vice President Ken Collins. "The sprinkler success stories are a reminder to Ahern employees that our individual impact on a daily basis is for a much higher purpose... protecting property and saving lives." 


A welder wearing a red protective jacket, blue jeans, and a black welding helmet is seated on a metal stool. He is focused on welding a large pipe, with a bright light emanating from the welding point. The background is dark and industrial, with various pipes and structures visible.

Ahern
Delivers
BIG with
Small-Bore
Fabrication

Ahern's pipe fabrication team supplies customers with piping from 1/2" to 144" in diameter, but some of its projects are exclusive to either large- or small-bore piping. This is the case with the recently acquired West County Energy Center (WCEC) project in Loxahatchee, Florida. Ahern is providing 3,550 spools of small-bore piping for a power generating unit being constructed at WCEC. Included in these spools are approximately 3,000 pipe bends and 1,750 customer-supplied valves. Long-standing customer Black & Veatch, in partnership with West County Power Partners LLC, turned to Ahern based on a competitive price and ability to deliver all piping by mid-March 2010.

"Small-bore piping turns through the shop quickly, so we've put forth a large organizational effort inclusive of sorting the customer-supplied drawings by delivery date priority," said Pipe Fabrication Project Manager Ross Harms. "This helps to expedite shop drawing development and material orders accurately and efficiently."

Ahern is delivering prefabricated piping to the jobsite every two weeks, each according to the specified spool priorities. Shipments contain up to eight different types of stainless, chrome, and carbon steel piping, all 2" diameter or smaller. Trucks are carefully loaded and staged with like materials grouped together, an important process in protecting the integrity of each pipe spool. Ahern is also including a color- and bar-coded tag with each pipe spool to further assist Black & Veatch with its material tracking and final installations.

"The organization and accuracy of Ahern's deliveries to the jobsite have been excellent, and really stood out to our team," said Black & Veatch Mechanical Engineer Ryan Pruett, P.E. "Because this job was identical to the previous generating unit, Ahern was put on the hot seat to get up to speed with the details and project expectations. They responded very well, and have hit the ground running. Overall, we are very satisfied with their work." 

FACTS AT A GLANCE

How are We Doing?

(Results from 10/1/09 to 12/31/09)

People*:

Employee Count: 935

○.....

Productivity:

Open Projects: 578

Projects Closed: 189

Manhours Worked: 482,955

○.....

Customer Satisfaction:


Customers Surveyed: 144

Percentage of "Satisfied" or

"Very Satisfied" Responses: 99%

**See Ahern's current job opportunities at www.aherncareers.com*

Ahern Named Ansul Authorized Dealer

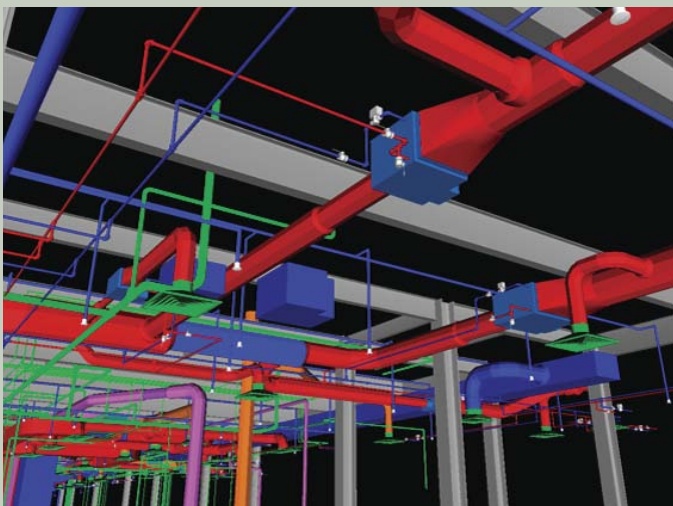
Ahern was recently named an authorized dealer of Ansul fire extinguishers and pre-engineered restaurant, commercial off-road vehicle, and industrial facility suppression systems. This dealership allows Ahern to sell, install, and service these systems throughout the state of Wisconsin, a market that was previously only represented by three other authorized dealers. Ansul is a brand of Tyco Fire Suppression & Building Products, and dominates the fire equipment and pre-engineered systems market. Ahern is also an authorized dealer of Amerex and Kidde fire equipment and systems. 


DESIGN/BUILD, ANOTHER AHERN ADVANTAGE



Ahern has a strong reputation for providing a full line of quality services, but did you know the Company offers complete design/build capabilities as well? Our design/build process includes a team approach to establishing and defining solutions to meet each customer's facility needs. By critiquing projects from multiple viewpoints, Ahern can offer recommendations that match clients' long-term and initial investment goals. Having Ahern as your design/build expert offers several benefits, including:

- **Single-source responsibility.** Building owners can take comfort in knowing Ahern will design systems with their best interests in mind and will be there after completion to ensure satisfaction.
- **Shorter design process.** Ahern's in-house professionals have the resources and manpower to efficiently provide clients with an effective design.
- **Reduced change orders.** Ahern evaluates which systems and layout options are best suited for each project during the design phase. This significantly reduces the chance that project specifications will no longer meet customers' needs after installations have begun.
- **Flexibility.** By including building owners' goals in the design process, Ahern can offer various system recommendations and allow clients to select what best fits their needs.
- **Accuracy.** Ahern utilizes the latest 3D BIM [Building Information Modeling] technology on many of its projects. This provides an accurate 3D view of each system, and identifies potential interferences prior to installation for an efficient resolution. This technology also provides a powerful system for the owner to imbed record documents into the models, such as operation and maintenance manuals, system schematics and pictures, and equipment training videos, all services that Ahern provides to its clients.



According to the Design Build Institute of America, non-residential design and construction projects using design/build practices are expected to increase to 50 percent by the year 2015. When you're ready to reap the rewards of the many advantages design/build brings, trust an experienced, reliable contractor. Trust Ahern. 

design/build spotlight

Columbia St. Mary's

Water Tower Medical Commons

"...Your commitment and dedication from the pre-construction through the turnover of the facility only reinforces the fact that CG Schmidt/Barton Malow JV made the correct decision hiring J. F. Ahern Co. as our mechanical and plumbing design/build contractor. Keep up the good work."



*Pete Richards
Project Administrator
CG Schmidt/Barton
Malow Joint Venture*

Marquette University McCabe Hall

"The Ahern team delivered KBS and Marquette an outstanding building project at McCabe Hall. From pre-construction through completion, Ahern created solutions for a challenging renovation project that was completed on time and under budget."



*Rich Severson
Project Manager
KBS Construction, Inc.*

Clayco Construction

"I like working with Ahern due to their high level of coordination and professionalism, both during the design and construction phases. During the BJC Data Center project, Ahern was always on top of things and never needed any follow-up. The coordination between all trades was very good, and involved the use of 3D BIM technology. Ahern installed three different systems at BJC, which came together very smoothly. We received a great product from Ahern meeting both our schedule and quality demands."

*Scott Zola
Senior Project Manager
Clayco Construction*

C.D. Smith Construction, Inc.

"Ahern is able to take clients' requests and provide alternatives early in the development process, allowing owners to make educated decisions on cost, energy efficiency, and equipment longevity. Their ability to understand system requirements for the type of facility being constructed early on has been very helpful, as is their knowledge of LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] requirements and options in constructing a LEED-certified building."

*Mike Krolczyk
Director of Construction Services
C.D. Smith Construction, Inc.*

Ayars & Ayars, Inc.

"We've always found the staff at Ahern to be a very professional group that embraces the design/build delivery method we employ on our projects. Whether working from preliminary design documents or by evaluating existing on-site conditions, we can always count on Ahern to provide a well-thought-out, complete, and cost-effective solution for our customers. Ahern has proven through several projects to be a valuable team member from initial design to installation in the field."

*Gary Tucker
Vice President - Estimating
Ayars & Ayars, Inc.*

O'Reilly Auto Parts

"The people at Ahern displayed a great deal of knowledge and experience throughout the design, installation, and service phases of this project. Given the opportunity, I wouldn't hesitate to work with them again."



*Tim Scholl
Distribution Field
Project Manager
O'Reilly Auto Parts*



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www.jfahern.com

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HVAC • Pipe Fabrication • Service & Repairs • Water/Wastewater Treatment • Energy Solutions



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