# **Execututive Summary**

# **Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Sciences Center**

# **Existing Conditions Analysis for Building Mechanical Systems**

Prepared by

Ryan J. Wanko

The Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Science Center is a 46,000 sf addition to the existing sciences center at King's College. The addition houses both laboratory and lecture hall type spaces. The building contains four air handling units, two air-cooled chillers, two hot water boilers and multiple terminal units. One interesting point is that 3 of the four air handlers and 100% outdoor air applications with out any type of heat recovery. This report finds the heating and cooling plants to be slightly undersized. It also finds that the units do not use enough heat recovery for the amount of outdoor air being brought in. In general the entire building is over ventilated. Recommended solutions include the use of a dedicated outdoor air unit, and resizing of cooling and heating plants.

# Charles E. And Mary Parente Life Sciences Building King's College Wilkes-Barre Pa

# Existing Conditions Report for Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Applications

Prepared by Ryan J. Wanko







# **Table of Contents**

P.3) Introduction

- P.4) Design Conditions, Considerations and Objectives
- P.6) Energy Sources and Costs
- P.7) Design Load Conditions
- P.9) HVAC Equipment Descriptions and Modes of Operation
- P.14) System Evaluation/Conclusion

Appendices:

- A.1) Equipment Listings and Details
- A.2) Space Load Calculations
- A.3) Air Flow Diagrams
- A.4) Hot Water Flow Diagrams
- A.5) Chilled Water Flow Diagrams

## **Introduction**

The Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Science Center is a 46,000 sf addition to the existing sciences center at King's College. The addition houses both laboratory and lecture hall type spaces. The building contains four air handling units, two air-cooled chillers, two hot water boilers and multiple terminal units. One interesting point is that 3 of the four air handlers and 100% outdoor air applications with out any type of heat recovery. This report will analyze the operation and physicality of the current environmental control system. Equipment listings, space load calculations and sequence of operations should be considered in order to achieve an overall understanding of the entire application. It is important to remember that it is the application that we as engineers are most concerned with. It's not too difficult to specify equipment but knowing how to apply that equipment to a certain application in order to achieve thermal comfort, ventilation requirements and acceptable indoor air quality can be somewhat of a challenge.

# **Design Conditions, Considerations and Objectives**

With any HVAC design project the first thing that must be considered is the design conditions for the geographical location of the building. After that we must consider the type of building and start to formulate a "plan of attack" to assure all codes are met as well as basic design standards.

The Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Sciences Building is located in Wilkes-Barre PA. Wilkes-Barre is located in the northeastern part of the state. Typically the city will experience more heating degree days than cooling degree days. Therefore it might not be surprising to see the heating plant size exceeding the cooling plant size. The area is not incredibly dense, which is a good indicator that carbon monoxide levels in the outdoor air will be acceptable. The building also contains offices that are able to be accessed 24 hours a day 7 days a week which implies that there should not be an "unoccupied" setting on the control sequence. In other words set point is to be constantly maintained. The following section will go step by step through design conditions and considerations for The Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Sciences center.

# Design Conditions

As scheduled, the outdoor air design conditions were taken to be

Cooling Season: 92°F db/75°F wb

Heating Season: 0°F/60%RH

Room air conditions for both heating and cooling seasons are taken to be at 75°F db/50%RH.

Supply air discharge temperatures for all air handlers is taken at 55°F/100%RH for both heating and cooling seasons. The remainder of the load for winter heating is picked up local to the space via the variable air volume reheat boxes.

Judging by the outdoor air design conditions its fairly clear that the heating season might be stressed more than the cooling season. We can infer this based of the temperature difference between the room air conditions and the outdoor air design conditions. Where  $\Delta T$ (summer) = 17°F <  $\Delta T$  (winter) = 75°F

# Design Considerations

The building has a mix of usage groups such as classrooms, laboratories and offices. Each of these groups will have a direct effect on the type of application that is used. For instance, something acoustically pleasing would be desirable for all three space types, the labs will need some special exhaust considerations based off the type of work that is being done, and the offices should have independent temperature control with a wide range of set points to meet the individuals comfort level. Since it is in essence a classroom building implies a high building density and thus the possibility of a large internal load.

The labs in this particular building do not utilize any local exhaust, but the general exhaust is not returned but directly exhausted out the roof. Some of the lecture halls do utilize return air others are part of 100% outdoor air applications *where they share an air handler with a laboratory*. Therefore, space location within the building obviously played a critical part in selecting the type of application best suited.

The site itself is adjacent to buildings on all sides that are of equal or greater height, there are also trees around the building. Both of these factors will imply high shading coefficients and thus a reduction in solar radiated heat.

# **Design Objectives:**

It's difficult to say exactly what the design engineer wanted to achieve with this particular design. Based off of the given information the objectives can be assumed as follows:

- Low Initial Cost
- Assurance of minimum outdoor air requirements
- Proper ventilation requirements for a dilution type contaminant reduction
- Precise temperature control for each individual space
- Easy to maintenance
- Easy to operate

This of course is only an assumption based off of construction documents and should not be taken as the actual objectives as defined by the design engineer.

# **Energy Sources and Cost**

This building uses no district heating applications. The boilers are fed by a natural gas main and the remaining equipment is electric. In general electricity prices in the Wilkes-Barre area are fairly reasonable. Exact cost information is not available at this time but is currently being compiled and should be posted soon!

However it has been made clear that there are no cost factors associated with power prices.

# **Design Load Conditions**

By definition the design load should be the worst case scenario that the application will see during the course of one year. Based off this number all the equipment is to be specified. The total load scene by the heating and cooling plant is the summation of the space load and the ventilation load. The space load is defined as the amount of heat being directly transfer to the space. The ventilation load is the amount of energy needed to bring the required outdoor air to supply conditions. (See A.1) for specific details on this application. Blow is a short numerical summary:

Total Space Load (Heating): 974,746 Btu/Hr

Total Space Load (Cooling): 873,483 Btu/Hr

Design Total Cooling Load: 1,320,000 Btu/hr

Design Total Heating Load: 5,218,000 Btu/Hr

The total load numbers are based off design sizes of the boiler and chiller units. We can quickly estimate the actual ventilation load to check the accuracy of the equipment sizing in the following manner:

 $Q_{OA} = m_{OA} \cdot \Delta i_{OR}$  where the term  $\Delta i$  is the absolute difference in enthalpy from the outdoor air to the room air.

Winter:

$$
\dot{Q}_{OA} = \dot{V}_{OA} \bullet \rho_{OA} \bullet \Delta i_{O,R} = 33,789.35 \text{cfm} \bullet .086 \frac{lb}{ft^3} \bullet 27.64 \frac{btu}{lb} \bullet 60 \frac{min}{hr} = 4819118.2 \frac{btu}{hr}
$$
\n
$$
\dot{Q}_{Tot} = \dot{Q}_{OA} + \dot{Q}_{Space} = 4819118.2 \frac{btu}{hr} + 974,746 \frac{btu}{hr} = 5,793,864.2 \frac{btu}{hr}
$$
\nSummary:

Summer:

$$
\dot{Q}_{OA} = \dot{V}_{OA} \bullet \rho_{OA} \bullet \Delta i_{O,R} = 33,789.35cfm \bullet .07 \frac{lb}{ft^3} \bullet 10.28 \frac{btu}{lb} \bullet 60 \frac{min}{hr} = 1458889 \frac{btu}{hr}
$$
\n
$$
\dot{Q}_{Tot} = \dot{Q}_{OA} + \dot{Q}_{Space} = 1,458,889 \frac{btu}{hr} + 873,483 \frac{btu}{hr} = 2,332,372 \frac{btu}{hr}
$$

We can see that there is a possibility that the equipment is under sized!

The following table is an estimation of design conditions in the spaces based off of resulting humidity ratios. All floors except the ground floor are only monitored my thermostats therefore the relative humidity is a result of the mixed air conditions.





The resulting relative humidity for the heating season is *not* surprising! There is not humidifier section on the air handlers. Only mechanical and animal storage rooms receive humidification.

# **HVAC Equipment Descriptions and Modes of Operations**

The Life Sciences Center uses a combination of 2 different types of applications. The first of which is a Constant Air Volume (CAV) used in conjunction with duct mounted reheat coils and duct mounted humidification units (See A.3). The rest of the building is treated with a Variable Air Volume Application (VAV) with terminal VAV/reheat boxes (See A.3). The CAV application is 100% outdoor air, there are three VAV units and 2 of which are 100% outdoor, the remaining unit uses return air as a method of heat recovery. The VAV supply fans are monitored by pressure sensors within the duct work that will reduce the fan speed when enough pressure builds due to VAV dampers closing at part load conditions.

The water side consisted of two air cooled chillers, two hot water boilers, pumping equipment and all associated hydronic specialties (compression tanks, air separators etc.) There is also a heat exchanger that services a loop specific for glycol solution preheat.

For a complete list of equipment and details please reference page A.1.

To analyze the modes of operation for each individual application we will proceed by the air handling unit. For airside analysis breaking the building down per AHU will give the clearest view into over all performance characteristics.

Services: Ground floor storage areas (See A.2)

Unit Type: Modular, Constant Air Volume, 100% OA

Supply Air: 55°F/100%RH (cooling and heating) with terminal reheat and humidification, 1510 cfm

(See A.1 for reheat and humidifier details)

Description of operation: When the unit is energized the supply fan will run at constant speed. Exhaust air is removed through EF-1a and b through the roof. At part load conditions the reheats are activated to adjust the local space supply temperature as needed. Reheats are controlled by local T-stat (adjustable) and humidifiers are controlled by local humidistat. The unit has a freezestat located in the OA duct to trigger the unit to de-energize in the event of frost formation. When de-energized the OA damper will close and coil valves modulate to full bypass. When economization mode is engaged the supply fan will run full speed and coil valves will modulate to full bypass.

Services: First floor (See Space Load Calculations Work Sheet)

Unit Type: Modular, Variable Air Volume, Return Air (33%OA)

Supply Air: 55°F/100%RH (cooling and heating) with terminal reheat and volume dampers, 7695 cfm

(See A.1 for terminal unit details)

Description of operation: When the unit is energized at design conditions the supply fan will run at maximum speed and coil valves will modulate to full open. General exhaust air is pumped through the return fan and then out a side wall louver. Lavatory exhaust is removed via EF-2 through the roof. Motor dampers in the duct work will determine the amount of air returned and exhausted as needed.

 At part load conditions the local dampers will reduce air to the space and trigger the supply fan to reduce speed quadratically to maintain pressure (See page AHU-2). If space is still over heated or cooled once the damper hits the box minimum reheats are adjusted as needed to maintain set point. The terminal units are controlled by local T-stat (adjustable). The unit has a freezestat located in the OA duct to trigger the unit to de-energize in the event of frost formation. When de-energized the OA damper will close and coil valves modulate to full bypass. When economization mode is engaged the supply fan will run full speed and coil valves will modulate to full bypass. Return air damper will modulate fully closed and outdoor air damper will modulate to full open (enabling 100%OA)

Services: Second and Third and Second Floors (See Space Load Calculations Work Sheet)

Unit Type: Modular, Variable Air Volume, 100% OA

Supply Air: 55°F/100%RH (cooling and heating) with terminal reheat and volume dampers, 23,040 cfm

(See A.1 for terminal unit details)

Description of operation: When the unit is energized at design conditions the supply fan will run at maximum speed and coil valves will modulate to full open. All general exhaust is removed via EF-1a and b. Lavatory and storage exhaust is removed via EF-2. At part load conditions the local dampers will reduce air to the space and trigger the supply fan to reduce speed quadratically to maintain pressure (See page AHU-3). If space is still over heated or cooled once the damper hits the box minimum reheats are adjusted as needed to maintain set point. The terminal units are controlled by local T-stat (adjustable). The unit has a freezestat located in the OA duct to trigger the unit to de-energize in the event of frost formation. When de-energized the OA damper will close and coil valves modulate to full bypass. When economization mode is engaged the supply fan will run full speed and coil valves will modulate to full bypass.

Services: Second and Third and Second Floors (See A.2)

Unit Type: Modular, Variable Air Volume, 100% OA

Supply Air: 55°F/100%RH (cooling and heating) with terminal reheat and volume dampers, 23,040 cfm

(See A.1 for terminal unit details)

Description of operation: When the unit is energized at design conditions the supply fan will run at maximum speed and coil valves will modulate to full open. All general exhaust is removed via EF-1a and b as well as EF-3. At part load conditions the local dampers will reduce air to the space and trigger the supply fan to reduce speed quadratically to maintain pressure (See A.3). If space is still over heated or cooled once the damper hits the box minimum reheats are adjusted as needed to maintain set point. The terminal units are controlled by local T-stat (adjustable). The unit has a freezestat located in the OA duct to trigger the unit to de-energize in the event of frost formation. When de-energized the OA damper will close and coil valves modulate to full bypass. When economization mode is engaged the supply fan will run full speed and coil valves will modulate to full bypass.

# Chillers 1 and 2

When the system calls for cooling, chillers 1 and 2 will energize in a lead-lag manner. The pumps are variable speed and controlled by pressure sensors upstream (See A.5). Chiller water is treated with a glycol solution then sent to the AHU cooling coils.

### Boilers 1 and 2

When the system calls for heating boilers 1 and 2 will energize in a lead-lag manner. Hot water is treated with glycol solution and then sent to the required load. Pumps are run at constant speed (See A.4).

For specific details on refrigeration and hot water boiler units please reference the Equipment Listings Appendix.

# **System Evaluation/Conclusion**

- The existing HVAC system for The Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Sciences Center may be undersized in both cooling and heating applications. It appears that the cooling and heating plants are not large enough to meet the actual total load at the design conditions specified per schedule.
- Auxiliary humidification device is required for the entire building. Probably the quickest remedy would be to use a humidification module in the air handlers themselves.
- Ventilation requirements are clearly met, unfortunately there is not method of heat recovery besides a mixing box on one of the air handling units.
- Application of dedicated outdoor air unit would be more appropriate
- Ductwork and equipment location is agreeable.
- Elimination of the cabinet unit heaters in the entrance vestibules in exchange for integration with the air system to avoid an extra piece of equipment would be favorable.
- Indoor Air Quality is probably not an issue due to the excessive amount of ventilation air supplied to the building. However actual internal (contaminant) source amounts and types are not known.

The following is tabulation of existing equipment, the information provided is **not** a copy of design schedules:

**Air Handling Units:** All units are have a provided econimization mode



# **Terminal VAV Supply Units (HW reheat and damper only) Terminal VAV Exhaust Regulation Units**





#### **Exhaust/Relief Fans**



#### **Compression Tanks:**



#### **Heat Exchanger (Water to Glycol):**



#### **Duct Mounted Reheat Coils:**



#### **Electric Humidifiers:**



#### **Fin-Tube Radiator**





#### **Hot Water Boiler:**

#### **Cabinet Unit Heaters (Hot Water):**



#### **Diffusers, Registers and Grilles:**



#### **Air Cooled Chillers:**





#### **Pumps:**



#### Hot Water Unit Heater:







#### **Charles E. and Mary Parente Life Sciences Building, Kings College, Wilkes-Barre Pa.** A.2

#### **Design Cooling and Heating/Humidification Load Analysis**

The following tables are a tabulation of each space load in the Life Science Center. The load is calculated based on sensible and total considerations. The method of calulation is the basic energy balance about the space : **Q(tot)=m(dot)\*(Delta i)** where **(Delta i)** signifies the difference in enthalpy between supply air and room air. The sensible load will be calculated using the same equation by substituting **Cp(Delta T)** for **(Delta i)**. This adjustment will calculate the change in energy with constant humidity ratio, thus sensible only. The latent portion is calculated by using the equation **Q(l)=.64\*(Vdot)\*(Delta w)**. **(Delta w)** being the difference in humidity ratio between room and supply air.

# **Cooling**



**Fourth Floor:**

 Fourth floor HVAC application is only monitered by T-Stats. Therefore the latent load will be calculated by (population\*205btu/hr). Then using the equation above we will determine the resulting room humidity ratio.



#### **Cooling Totals:**



**Note: Exact room design conditions are not known. But based off of the given supply air conditions it apears that 75F dry bulb at 50%RH was the basis of design. In order to achieve a lower drybulb temperature with a reasonable RH the air handlers would have to cool to sub 55F DB then reheat back to 55F DB to achieve greater dehumidification capacity.**

# **Heating**











**Heating Total: 974746 Btu/Hr**

Note: The air handling units are only sized to heat the mixed air to 55F db. The reheat coils on all the terminal units are then sized to apply a 40F Delta T to supply at 95F to the spaces if need be. The designation UH signifies that that the space is serviced by a unit heater this implicitly implies that the "Supply Flow is actually a recirculation flow through the appliance. The designation (FT) signifies load through a fin tube radiator.

# **Humidification**



#### **Building Conditions Assessment:**



**Heating Season**



The humidity level durring the heating season brings alarm. Keep in mind that this building is serviced by 100% outside air units. The units do not have a humidification section scheduled. This maybe a scheduling typo.











A.3) AHU-2/4

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

# A. 3) AHU-3/7

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

 $\Delta.5$