

Eastern Kentucky University Retube Job is a Success

Six members of the Ware team are currently working on a project in collaboration with the Heat Plant at Eastern Kentucky University to retube a 3-story tall boiler. The boiler, located on EKU's campus in Richmond, Kentucky, provides heat to multiple buildings on campus, including dormitories.

The boiler is a mid-60's model and is fueled by coal. While coal is cheaper than any other type of boiler fuel, it does bring more stringent EPA regulations. Through this retube job, the team at Ware is working to ensure that the boiler meets all of those regulations, however stringent they may be.

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Mike Taylor, the project's supervisor, said that working with a coal-fired boiler of this size is a bit different. For starters, the coal-fired monster is much bigger than normal boilers. This makes logistics challenging for Ware's boiler technicians. For instance: the team must move and position tubes in the boiler that are 2.5 inches in diameter, up to 40 feet long, and contain numerous twists and bends.

In addition to retubing the boiler and ensuring that it meets EPA regulations, Ware is also removing a sister boiler that was next to the larger one. In its place, the University is installing a deaerator tank and a surge tank.

According to Mike, working with EKU has been an enjoyable experience. “[The University] has been very easy to work with,” Mike said. He went on to comment that the staff is easy to get along with and that they have been pleased with the work so far.

This sentiment is also shared by Billy Powell, the Heat Plant Supervisor at EKU. Billy is a veteran at the Heat Plant, and has been working there for 33 years. “I’ve re



ally enjoyed it; it's just like home to me,” he said. In regards to working with Ware, Billy said, “We’ve had a good working relationship with them for years. Every time we have called on them, they have made exceptional time to do what needs to be done.”

The team from Ware works 10-hour days Monday through Thursday, with Friday, Saturday, and Sunday off. Mike Taylor travels to Richmond once per week to ensure that company standards are being met.

The project has been a great success thus far. With exceptional collaboration and a relaxed atmosphere, this collaboration is turning out to be of benefit to Ware, Eastern Kentucky University, and Richmond itself. According to Billy Powell: “the University is pleased with it and the community is pleased.”