Historic Power Plant Restored — For The Next 100 Years!

Rising over 120 ft. from the water's surface, the power plant building is an impressive sight. Great consideration was given for the product to be used due to the nuances involved.

The Edison Electric plant situated in Michigan's oldest city was built between 1898 and 1902, when it opened its doors for business. At 1/4 mile long from end to end, this building is the longest power plant in the world. It spans a power canal 200 ft wide and generates about 1/5 of the power needs of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. It contains 74 three-phase generators, each one capable of supplying enough electricity to run several Wal-Mart stores. The building also houses the University Aquatics Lab which performs fresh-water research and stocks numerous species of game fish in the river.

Working on a roof this large, poised 100 ft. over the St. Mary's River, posed extra safety concerns. Much of the work was done by men working from a cherry picker. The first step was to power wash the roof, removing all old loose coatings, dirt and debris. After tightening fasteners and replacing missing ones, seams and valleys were reinforced with PolyCore embedded in SeamGuard. Once the roof was watertight, it received a coat of Base Coat and a final coat of Topps Seal Excel to wrap the 100-yr-old metal surface in a seamless shield of protection.

← *Before coating, this metal roof was plagued with leaks.*

Work in progress → *from cherry picker and roof surface (circles). The ability to spray Topps Seal Excel from the ground made a tricky job slightly easier. The ability to mold to the roof's surface made it easier to seal out leaks.*