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**COLORADO SCHOOL OF  
MINES**®

**MEGN 461 | Thermodynamics II | Dr. Rodriguez**

**Analysis and Modification of the LockRidge Arena HVAC  
System During A Worst Case Heat Generation Scenario**

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Our consulting team has been tasked with running an analysis on the HVAC system for the Student Recreation Center on the Colorado School of Mines campus. More specifically, the Lockridge Arena competition gymnasium which currently faces issues with its cooling system. The initial HVAC system that was installed operates using indirect and direct evaporative cooling systems. Evaporative cooling systems work well for cooling the air temperature in a highly efficient manner, but raise the humidity of the air while doing so. Meanwhile, the gymnasium flooring begins to warp when the relative humidity (RH) goes above 40%. To prevent damage to the flooring, the current system must fully shut off and stop cooling the room once the relative humidity goes above 40%. This creates an issue when the outside air is at high temperatures and humidity, and the gym is being used. A potential fix to this problem that has already been evaluated is to connect the main campus chilled water system from Brown Building to the Student Rec Center, and connecting that to a cooling coil within the system, but this solution has proven to not be cost effective enough to implement. Our team has chosen to analyze the option of using a local water chiller to provide cold water to a cooling coil with hopes it will be a more feasible solution to lower the temperature without increasing humidity. Figure 1, seen below shows what we classify as a “worst case” scenario wherein all 2,500 bleacher seats are occupied, and the floor has also been converted to seating adding an additional strain up to 3,500 people. This occurs at lectures, convocation, graduation, and various other school events.



*Figure 1: Lockridge Arena Near Full Capacity*

## BACKGROUND

The student recreation center on the Colorado School of Mines campus runs on an HVAC system that is split into six sections. The HVAC section of the recreation center that regulates the temperature of the Lockridge arena is called AHU-2. This unit starts by pulling outside air into one of four vents. The air passes through dampers that can open and close to regulate the amount of air based on the needs of the system. The incoming air first passes through an indirect evaporative cooling coil (see Figure 2).

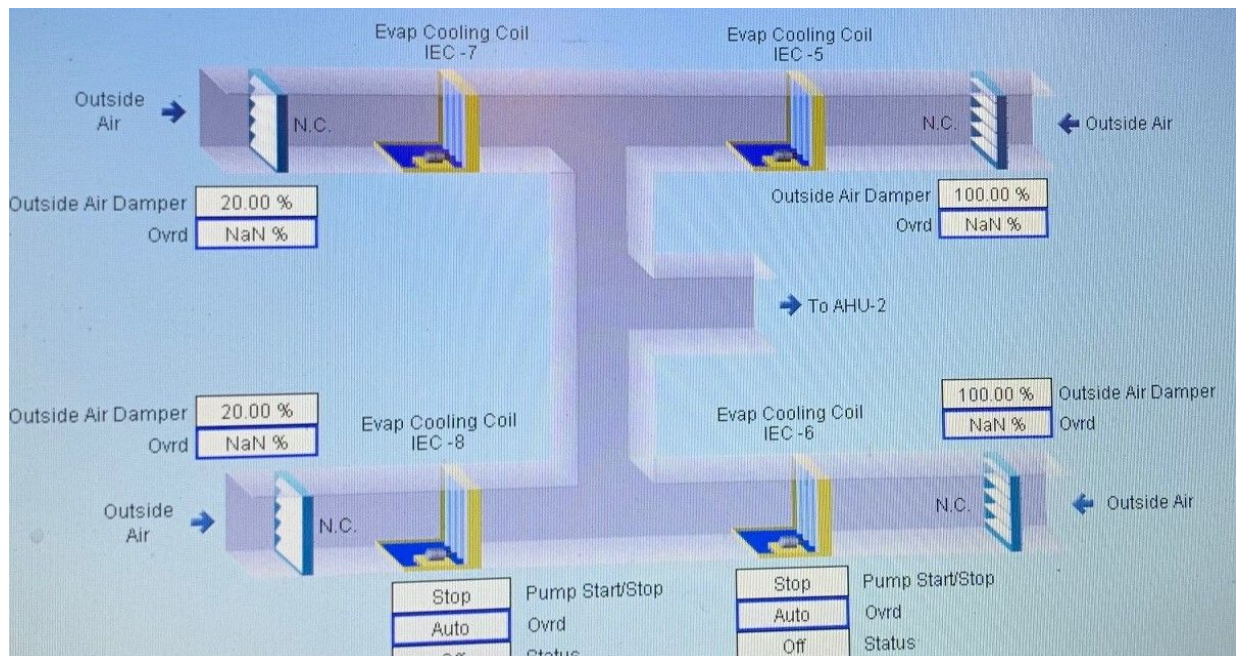


Figure 2: System diagram of first stage of AHU-2

These are the first components that are able to cool incoming air on a hot day. However, they are not very effective as they can only drop the air temperature by one to two degrees Fahrenheit. The air from the four ducts are then funneled into the air input for the next step. To cool the air even further before it enters the arena, the air passes through an air filter to remove large particulate matter, then through a heating coil (which is turned off in the warmer months), then to a direct evaporative cooler (see Figure 3).

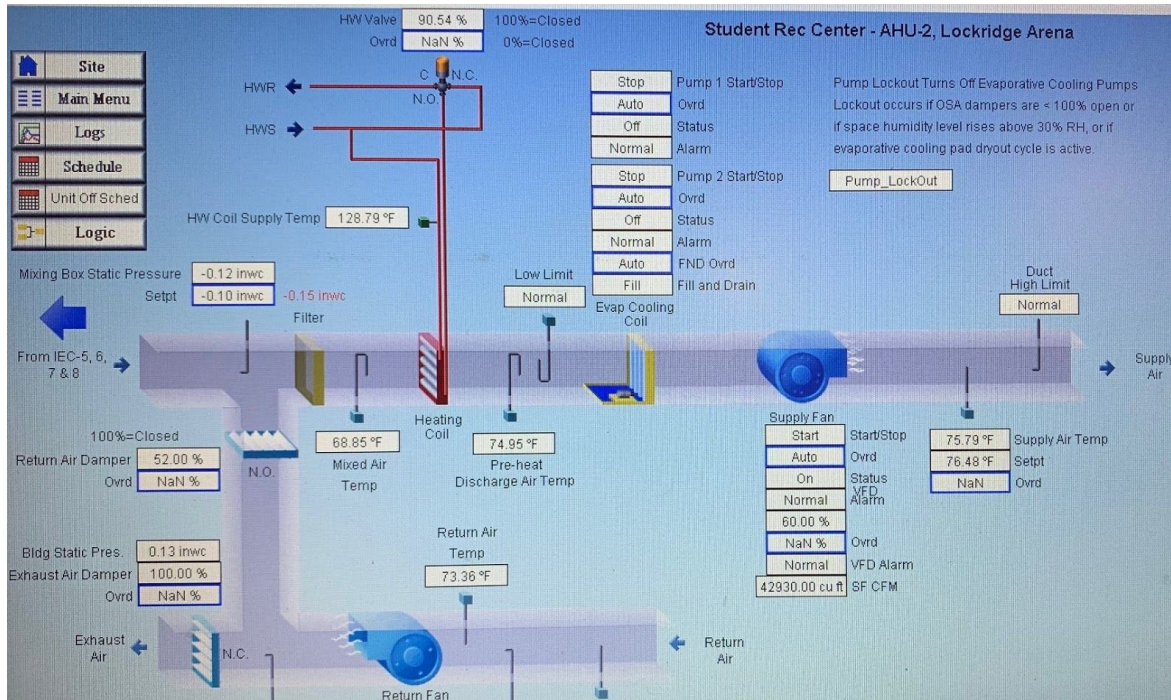


Figure 3: System diagram of second stage of AHU-2

The direct evaporative cooler sprays a fine mist of cool water down to a collection tray. As the air passes through, heat is transferred directly to the water and cools the air even more. Though the direct evaporative cooler results in a cooler air temperature, it also increases the relative humidity inside the arena. Return air from the arena is then brought back to the outside air inlet where it mixes. There is also an exhaust duct that takes some of the air back into the atmosphere.

## DESCRIPTION

The facilities department at the Colorado School of Mines has a limited budget and cost-benefit analyses were done prior to the completion of the student recreation center to determine what kind of cooling system would be implemented. Due to humidity considerations, a mechanical cooler (chilled water cooling coil) was selected. The facilities manager has looked into changing the system, and there is space available within AHU-2 (which solely handles the competition gym) as well as room in both the electrical and mechanical rooms to give a chiller a new home.

This report will compare the effectiveness of the current cooling system to that of a new chiller system to help justify the necessity for upgrading the HVAC system for Lockridge Arena. Using computer programs, EES and MathCAD, the two systems will be modeled and arena relative humidity and costs will be discussed to see if purchasing a new system is worth the cost.

## CALCULATIONS, ASSUMPTIONS & DISCUSSION:

### Evaporative Cooler

This analysis is looking at how effective the current system is at cooling based on how the relative humidity of the air entering the arena is affected. Therefore, it will only be looking at summer time conditions in Golden, CO, because in the winter there is less need for the cooler and most problems the facilities crew face are in the summer.

#### Assumptions:

- Air from the indirect evaporative coolers (see Figure 1) can be neglected due to the fact they add no relative humidity and only affected the temperature by a few degrees.
- Outside temperatures and humidities are based on reasonable summer conditions in Colorado.
- Return air damper is 100% closed (see Figure 2)
- The heating coil (see Figure 2) can be neglected as the heater is not used in the summer.
- Mass flow rate for the direct evaporative cooler was not given so a reasonable value was given
- Volumetric flow rate of inlet air used in summer was not given, though it was reasonably assumed based on the rate used in winter (42,930 cfm).
- Water temperatures for the direct evaporative cooler are not monitored so they were reasonably assumed.
- Assume the inside set temperature is 65 degrees F in the summer ( $T_2$  in EES)

Below is a simplified illustration based on the above assumptions. State numbers are shown and variables in the following EES calculations correspond accordingly.

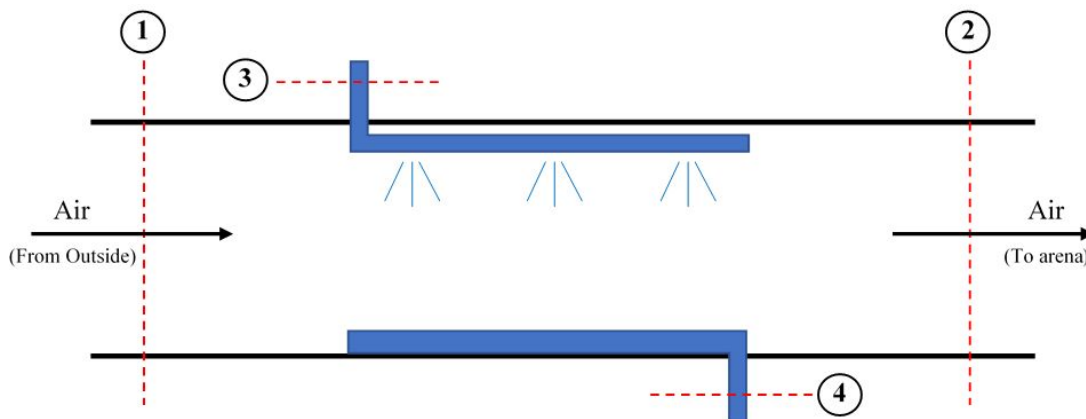


Figure 4: Simplified system illustration used for calculations

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*AHU-2 Model with Direct Evaporative Cooling*

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*STATE INFORMATION AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT STATE 2 CALCULATION:*

*Outside Air -> State 1*

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*User Defined Variables*

$$T_1 = \text{ConvertTemp} (F, C, 100) \text{ } \textit{Outside temp in F}$$

$$RH_1 = 0.4 \text{ } [-] \textit{ Outside Relative Humidity}$$

$$\dot{V}_1 = 45000 \cdot \left| 0.000471947 \cdot \frac{\text{m}^3/\text{s}}{\text{cfm}} \right| \textit{ Inlet Air Volumetric Flow Rate (assume max capacity)}$$

$$P_{\text{atm}} = 1 \cdot \left| 101.325 \cdot \frac{\text{kPa}}{\text{atm}} \right|$$

$$\text{density} = 0.954 \text{ } [\text{kg}/\text{m}^3] \textit{ Air Density in Denver, CO}$$

$$\dot{m}_1 = \dot{V}_1 \cdot \text{density}$$

$$Pv_1 = RH_1 \cdot P \text{ (water , } T = T_1, x = 0 \text{ )}$$

$$hv_1 = h \text{ (water , } T = T_1, x = 1 \text{ )}$$

$$Pa_1 = P_{\text{atm}} - Pv_1$$

$$w_1 = 0.622 \cdot \frac{Pv_1}{Pa_1}$$

$$cp = 1.005 \text{ } [\text{kJ}/\text{kg}^\circ\text{C}]$$

$$h_1 = cp \cdot T_1 + w_1 \cdot hv_1$$

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*Air to Arena -> State 2*

$$P_2 = P_{\text{atm}} \textit{ Assume no pressure change across cooler}$$

$$T_2 = \text{ConvertTemp} (F, C, 65)$$

$$w_2 = \frac{\frac{\dot{m}_{\text{water}}}{\dot{m}_1} \cdot (h_3 - h_4) - h_4 \cdot w_1 + h_1 - cp \cdot T_2}{h \text{ (water , } T = T_2, x = 1 \text{ )} - h_4}$$

$$RH_2 = \frac{w_2 \cdot P_2}{(0.622 + w_2) \cdot P \text{ (water , } T = T_2, x = 0 \text{ )}}$$

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Inlet Water to Evap Cooler -> State 3

$$h_3 = h(\text{water}, T = T_3, x = 0)$$

Assume these values:

$$T_3 = 20 \text{ [C]}$$

$$\dot{m}_{\text{water}} = 20 \text{ [kg/s]}$$


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Outlet Water from Evap Cooler -> State 4

$$T_4 = 30 \text{ [C] Assumption}$$

$$h_4 = h(\text{water}, T = T_4, x = 0)$$

SOLUTION

Unit Settings: SI C kPa kJ mass deg

cp = 1.005 [kJ/kg°C]

h1 = 80.41 [kJ/kg]

$\dot{m}_1 = 20.26 \text{ [kg/s]}$

Pv1 = 2.621 [kPa]

RH1 = 0.4 [-]

T2 = 18.33 [C]

$\dot{V}_1 = 21.24 \text{ [m}^3\text{/s]}$

density = 0.954 [kg/m<sup>3</sup>]

h3 = 83.91 [kJ/kg]

$\dot{m}_{\text{water}} = 20 \text{ [kg/s]}$

P2 = 101.3 [kPa]

RH2 = 0.5903 [-]

T3 = 20 [C]

w1 = 0.01652 [kg/kg]

h<sub>v1</sub> = 2570 [kJ/kg]

h4 = 125.7 [kJ/kg]

Pa1 = 98.7 [kPa]

Patm = 101.3 [kPa]

T1 = 37.78 [C]

T4 = 30 [C]

w2 = 0.007735 [kg/kg]

No unit problems were detected.

Figure 5: EES Calculations for Evaporative Cooler

From these calculations, two scenarios were tested. The first scenario is presented in Figure 3: 100 degree F day with 40% relative humidity. The second scenario is an 80 degree F day with 25% humidity. These two scenarios were used to back up the claims by the facilities crew that on normal days, the cooler does a good job, but on hot and humid days, they have to shut it off due to too much humidity inside. The results were as follows:

Scenario 1

RH<sub>2</sub> = 0.5903 [-]

Scenario 2

RH<sub>2</sub> = 0.2907 [-]

The results show that in order to keep the inside temperature at 65 degrees F, and keeping all else the same, the cooling system fails to keep the relative humidity inside the arena under the comfortable limit of 35-40% in Scenario 1, but succeeds in Scenario 2. These calculations back

up the claims that hot, humid days are the worst conditions for the current cooling system and mild, drier days are handled just fine.

### Water Chiller & Cold Water Coil

#### Assumptions:

- Mechanical chiller and chilled water cooling coil will not introduce humidity.
- Gym size will be approximated.
- Lights are LEDs with minimal heat production.
- At RH 40%, DEC and IEC systems turn off. Mechanical cooling system will run alone.

**T<sub>c</sub>**: the temperature the room will be cooled to (based on averages of sensors).

**T<sub>c,air</sub>**: the temperature of the air after it passes through the cooled water coil (assume insulation).

**T<sub>return</sub>**: the temperature of the air as it exits the room (assuming the room maintains equilibrium in a worst case scenario) .

**n**: the highest number of people in the gym in a “worst” case scenario i.e. lecture or convocation.

**Q<sub>p</sub>**: average/assumed amount of heat generated by a human to a room temp atmosphere.

**C<sub>p</sub>**: assumed value to simplify calculations given temperature conditions of room.

**ρ<sub>air</sub>**: density of air at a given temperature.

**Q<sub>T</sub>**: total heat generated by all people.

**m<sub>dot</sub>air**: the amount of cold air needed to be supplied to counteract the heat generated by the people in the gym.

**CFM**: cubic feet per minute of air needed to counteract the heat generated by the people.

Lockridge:

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 L := 120 \text{ ft} & T_c := 73 \text{ }^\circ\text{F} = 295.928 \text{ K} & n := 3500 & c_p := 1007 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{K}} \\
 W := 150 \text{ ft} & T_{c,air} := 55 \text{ }^\circ\text{F} = 285.928 \text{ K} & Q_p := 356 \frac{\text{Btu}}{\text{hr}} & \rho_{air} := 1.225 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \\
 H := 50 \text{ ft} & T_{return} := 73 \text{ }^\circ\text{F} = 295.928 \text{ K} & & \\
 \\
 Volume := L \cdot W \cdot H = (9 \cdot 10^5) \text{ ft}^3 & & Q_T := n \cdot Q_p = (3.652 \cdot 10^5) \text{ W} & \\
 \\
 m_{dot_{air}} := \frac{Q_T}{c_p \cdot (T_{return} - T_{c,air})} = 36.263 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{s}} & & & \\
 \\
 CFM := \frac{m_{dot_{air}}}{\rho_{air}} = (6.272 \cdot 10^4) \frac{\text{ft}^3}{\text{min}} & & & 
 \end{array}$$

Figure 6: MathCAD calculations for CFM necessary in worst case scenario



As shown above, in a worst case scenario with 3500 people occupying Lockridge (which was initially rated for 2500), there would need to be a maximum total of 62,720 CFM generated through the supply fan seen in Figure 2. If we were to simply insert the coil into AHU-2 it would be imperative that minimal changes to the rest of the system would be necessary. The maximum CFM necessary is such that the pre-installed supply fan would be capable of fulfilling the needed specifications. It is rated at a maximum of 67,200 CFM, but as the temperature differential increases, the  $(T_{\text{return}} - T_{\text{c\_air}})$  term would increase and the CFM would actually decrease in accordance with the mass flow rate of air equation seen in figure 6. In conducting research on product implementation, the core limiting factor to product selection would be fitting the coil into AHU-2. Modern day coils can support large variances in Propylene Glycol + Water combinations, and the temperature of this mixture as it entered the coil could also be varied and tuned to any parameters since it would be a local system and not dependant on the needs of other facilities on campus. Despite this promising fact however, the fact still stands that there is an issue with stratification of the air, and the further recommendation is made to install fan systems along the ceiling to promote air circulation. Having proven that this type of system would be compatible with fulfilling the design needs of lockridge, further feasibility analysis will need to be done in regard to the logistics of a chillers implementation, whether that be installation to the mechanical or electrical room, and the volume it would need to be rated to depending on the coil size selected.

## **CONCLUSION**

The implementation of a local water chiller and water cooling coil is possible, and the logistical issues posed are not tied into whether it can be done or not. However, the question of whether it will be installed or not would be a matter of cost. We believe that the School of Mines has enough other problems to not need to worry about this one, and would recommend redirecting costs to providing adequate parking solutions for its students. Furthermore, the number of occasions where it is hot, humid, and the arena is heavily occupied are very few each year. This is mostly due to the fact that these hot, humid days occur rarely in Colorado and only occur during the warmer months when a limited number of people are on campus. As a result, the additional costs of adding a local water chiller and cooling coil are likely not worth the small benefit they would provide.

## **FUTURE INVESTIGATION**

At this juncture, exact specifications and cost analysis has not been done on the additional load that would be taken on the lockridge electrical power systems. On top of running power lines to the water chiller, there may be additional installations from the main grid. These costs could potentially be reduced if the electrical room was used, but there may be some issues

with space allotment/fitment depending on the exact dimensions available in the mechanical or electrical room. Without a guaranteed space set out for the chiller, there would be the option of mounting it to the roof, but additional vibrational dampers would be needed to ensure there was sufficient noise reduction and further safety analysis would need to be done to ensure the safety of the athletes. There would also need to be installation of a control valve, the coil itself, a pump to circulate the water & propylene glycol mixture, and a controls system to connect the systems programming to that currently in use within the system.

## **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED / REFLECTIONS**

Heat Transfer Analysis Issues:

Struggling to find a qualifying CFM value to keep the gym cold. This problem was exacerbated by the fact that the team didn't have extensive heat transfer experience, however the decision was made to create all assumptions as that of a worst case scenario.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Mines facilities manager Michael Willy for all the information and database access he granted us. Without his help we would not have been able to get property or equipment information at each stage in the HVAC system.

## **CITATIONS**

[1] <http://ergo.human.cornell.edu/studentdownloads/DEA3500notes/Thermal/thcondnotes.html>

[2] Thermodynamics: An Interactive Approach, Subrata Bhattacharjee

[3] EES: Engineering Equation Solver

**APPENDIX:**

[A] M0.02: Mechanical Equipment Schedules  
See Attached

[B] M4.02: AHU-2 Airflow and Control Schematic  
See Attached

[C] M4.06: Steam / Hot Water Flow, Control, and Piping Schematic  
See Attached





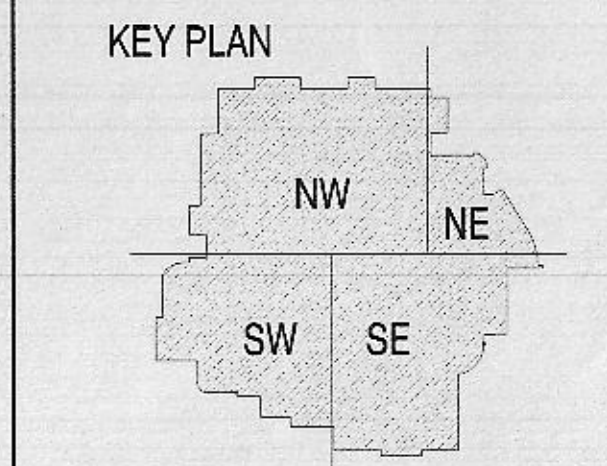


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Issues/Revisions:	Date:
SCHEMATIC DESIGN	02/21/05
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT	05/16/05
BID PKG. 1 SITE AND FND.	07/08/05
GMP	08/05/05
100% CD'S	09/02/05
FINAL CD'S	09/23/05
ADDENDA	10/14/05
ADDENDA	10/21/05
REVISIONS	11/30/05
COB-6	12/12/05
COB-7	12/23/05

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES  
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SCD Project No.: 0422

**STEAM / HOT WATER  
 FLOW, CONTROL, AND  
 PIPING SCHEMATIC**

Drawn by: CMT  
 Checked by: REP

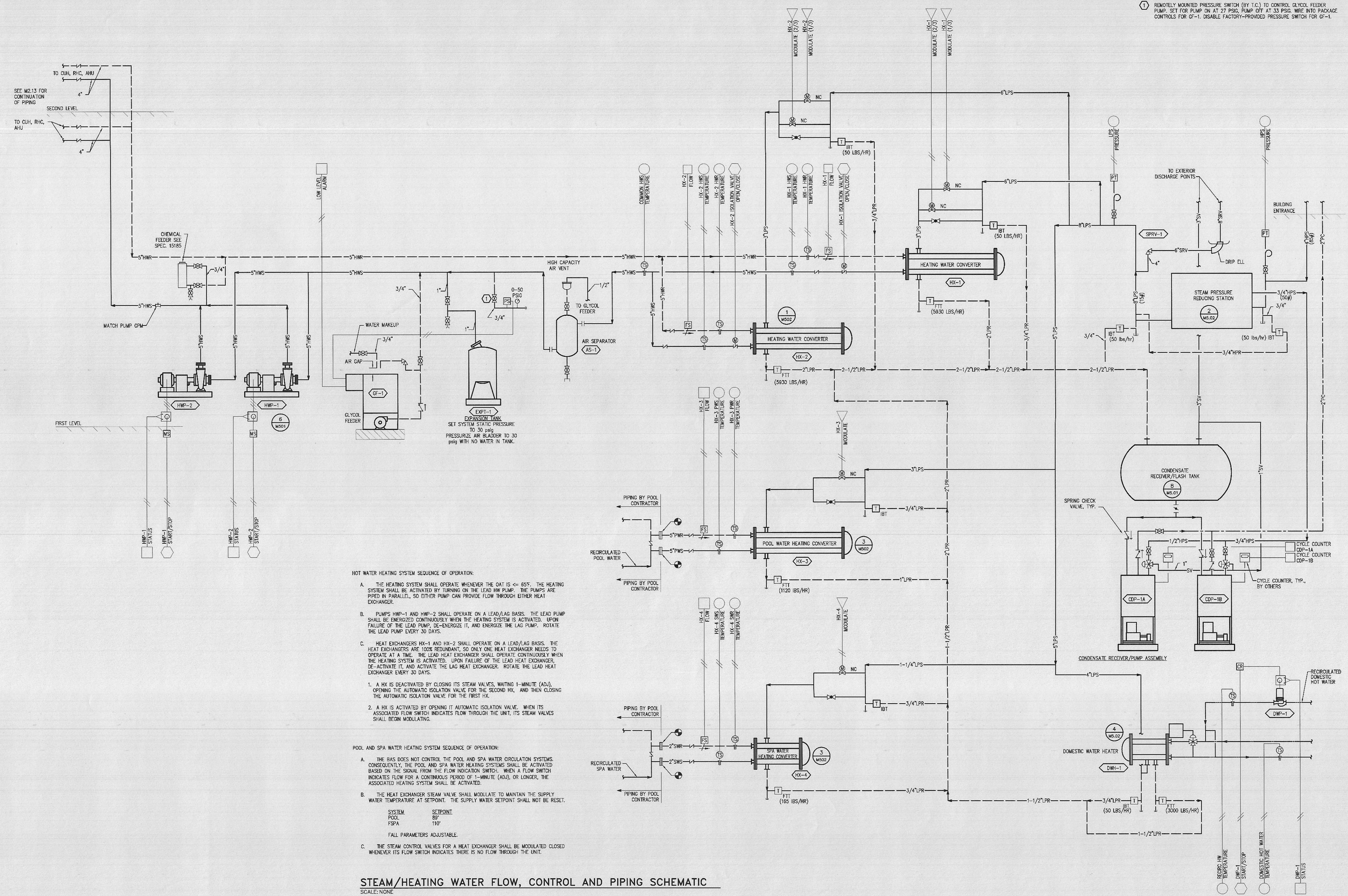
**M4.06**

**SHEET NOTES:**

- SEE DETAIL 1 ON MS.03 FOR STEAM TRAP PIPING.
- SEE PLANS AND REFERENCED DETAILS FOR ADDITIONAL SIZES AND OTHER PIPING INFORMATION.
- LISTED STEAM TRAP LOADS ARE DESIGN VALUES WITHOUT SAFETY FACTORS, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
- SEE TYPICAL DETAILS ON MS.01 FOR CUH, UH, AND RHC PIPING.

**KEY NOTES:**

- REMOVELY MOUNTED PRESSURE SWITCH (BY T.C.) TO CONTROL GLYCOL FEEDER PUMP. SET FOR PUMP ON AT 27 PSIG, PUMP OFF AT 33 PSIG. WIRE INTO PACKAGE CONTROLS FOR GF-1. DISABLE FACTORY-PROVIDED PRESSURE SWITCH FOR GF-1.



**HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEM SEQUENCE OF OPERATION:**

- THE HEATING SYSTEM SHALL OPERATE WHENEVER THE OAT IS  $\leq 65^\circ$ . THE HEATING SYSTEM SHALL BE ACTIVATED BY TURNING ON THE LEAD HW PUMP. THE PUMPS ARE PIPED IN PARALLEL, SO EITHER PUMP CAN PROVIDE FLOW THROUGH EITHER HEAT EXCHANGER.
- PUMPS HWP-1 AND HWP-2 SHALL OPERATE ON A LEAD/LAG BASIS. THE LEAD PUMP SHALL BE ENERGIZED CONTINUOUSLY WHEN THE HEATING SYSTEM IS ACTIVATED. UPON FAILURE OF THE LEAD PUMP, DE-ENERGIZE IT, AND ENERGIZE THE LAG PUMP. ROTATE THE LEAD PUMP EVERY 30 DAYS.
- HEAT EXCHANGERS HX-1 AND HX-2 SHALL OPERATE ON A LEAD/LAG BASIS. THE HEAT EXCHANGERS ARE 100% REDUNDANT, SO ONLY ONE HEAT EXCHANGER NEEDS TO OPERATE AT A TIME. THE LEAD HEAT EXCHANGER SHALL OPERATE CONTINUOUSLY WHEN THE HEATING SYSTEM IS ACTIVATED. UPON FAILURE OF THE LEAD HEAT EXCHANGER, DE-ACTIVATE IT, AND ACTIVATE THE LAG HEAT EXCHANGER. ROTATE THE LEAD HEAT EXCHANGER EVERY 30 DAYS.

- A HX IS DEACTIVATED BY CLOSING ITS STEAM VALVES, WAITING 1-MINUTE (ADJ), OPENING THE AUTOMATIC ISOLATION VALVE FOR THE SECOND HX, AND THEN CLOSING THE AUTOMATIC ISOLATION VALVE FOR THE FIRST HX.
- A HX IS ACTIVATED BY OPENING ITS AUTOMATIC ISOLATION VALVE. WHEN ITS ASSOCIATED FLOW SWITCH INDICATES FLOW THROUGH THE UNIT, ITS STEAM VALVES SHALL BEGIN MODULATING.

**POOL AND SPA WATER HEATING SYSTEM SEQUENCE OF OPERATION:**

- THE BAS DOES NOT CONTROL THE POOL AND SPA WATER CIRCULATION SYSTEMS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE POOL AND SPA WATER HEATING SYSTEMS SHALL BE ACTIVATED BASED ON THE SIGNAL FROM THE FLOW INDICATION SWITCH. WHEN A FLOW SWITCH INDICATES FLOW FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF 1-MINUTE (ADJ), OR LONGER, THE ASSOCIATED HEATING SYSTEM SHALL BE ACTIVATED.
- THE HEAT EXCHANGER STEAM VALVE SHALL MODULATE TO MAINTAIN THE SUPPLY WATER TEMPERATURE AT SETPOINT. THE SUPPLY WATER SETPOINT SHALL NOT BE RESET.

SYSTEM SETPOINT  
 POOL 89°  
 SPA 110°  
 ALL PARAMETERS ADJUSTABLE.

- THE STEAM CONTROL VALVES FOR A HEAT EXCHANGER SHALL BE MODULATED CLOSED WHENEVER ITS FLOW SWITCH INDICATES THERE IS NO FLOW THROUGH THE UNIT.

**STEAM/HEATING WATER FLOW, CONTROL AND PIPING SCHEMATIC**  
 SCALE: NONE