

Project Profile



Project

Southern Regional Medical Center
Riverdale, Georgia

Owner

Southern Regional Health System
Riverdale, Georgia

Roofing Contractor

T.L. Gowin & Company, Inc.
Cartersville, Georgia

Roofing Systems

Mechanically Attached
and Adhered Felt-Back
Systems, using white,
48 mil EnergySmart Roof®
membrane

Total Project Size

19 roof sections
totaling 158,000
square feet

Southern Regional Medical Center Stays Operational with Sika Sarnafil

Like the medical equipment housed beneath it, the roofs on the Southern Regional Medical Center came in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and systems. Many of the roofs also suffered from various problems, which necessitated their replacement over time. The 406-bed hospital was looking for a roofing solution that would be long-lasting, versatile enough to be applied over the different roofing substrates and decks, and could be installed without disrupting the operations of the hospital. Fortunately, Sika Sarnafil's roofing systems were just what the doctor ordered.

Since the hospital opened in 1971, it has required numerous additions and undergone many renovations, resulting in a myriad of roof sections and types. The Medical Center ended up with several different systems on its roofs, including standard built-up, ballasted, metal, shingle, mechanically attached EPDM, and IRMA roofs. In all, there are 38 roof sections over the hospital, ranging from 800 to 26,000 square feet, with a total roof area of 245,000 square feet.

When Southern Regional Medical Center started to experience problems with some of its roofs, it called on roofing contractor T. L. Gowin & Company, Inc. of Cartersville, GA to perform some repairs and roof replacements. Originally, Gowin & Company used EPDM and modified bitumen roofing materials to address the problems, but then the company became familiar with Sika Sarnafil's single-

ply reinforced PVC roofing systems, and Terry Gowin thought they might be good solutions for the Medical Center's ailments.

"We found Sika Sarnafil systems to be proven, high quality products offering long-term solutions," said Gowin. "I thought that their systems would be a good fit for Southern Regional for several reasons, including versatility, energy savings, long-term value, and hospital-friendly installation methods."

One Solution Prescribed for Varied Conditions

Michael Rauth, technical sales representative in Sika Sarnafil's Atlanta office, explained that Sika Sarnafil roof system components are versatile enough to be installed over a variety of substrates, including structural concrete and metal decking. "We can adhere the felt-back membrane to concrete and use water-based adhesive with tremendous adhesion," Rauth pointed out. He added that Sika Sarnafil's single-ply system typically weighs less than two pounds per square foot (compared to up to 14 pounds per square foot for a ballasted system), which means it can be applied directly over an old roof without significantly increasing the structural load.

Gowin stated that Sika Sarnafil also offers many different systems — including mechanically attached and adhered membranes and different products like flashings, fascias and such. This makes it much easier to find a solution that is right for a particular roofing situation.



Sarnafil®

Reflective Roof Lowers Building's Temperature

Another advantage of the Sika Sarnafil systems is the energy savings offered by the reflective, white EnergySmart Roof® membranes, which replaced dark-colored roofs on the hospital. "Think of two un-air-conditioned cars — one black, one white — that have been sitting outside on a hot August day in Georgia for a while. Which one would you want to get into? That's how I like to demonstrate the difference between a white and a black roof," said Rauth. "The white roof keeps the building cooler by reflecting the solar heat, and helps reduce air conditioning costs."

Installation Methods Offer Good Bedside Manner

Rauth said Sika Sarnafil roofs also met specific installation concerns posed by the hospital. First, like most medical facilities, the hospital wanted to limit noise and odors while the roofs were applied. Fortunately, since Sika Sarnafil roofs are typically adhered or mechanically attached, they don't have the fumes and odors associated with asphalt-applied roofs. They can usually be installed — even in difficult places — without disrupting the occupants in the medical facility.

"We had some very challenging installations on the Southern Regional roofs," said Rick Yarbrough, project manager at T.L. Gowin & Company. "One was a roof on the west tower, which is almost 10 (6 levels) stories high and set in the middle of the hospital. We had to figure out how to get the new roofing materials up on the roof and how to get the old roofing system off." This was achieved by strategically placing cranes and lifts to move the materials around.

Another challenge, Yarbrough said, was the replacement of an asphalt built-up roof with gravel over a concrete deck. "This roof was saturated with water, so we had to tear it off down to the structural concrete, prime it with asphalt primer, and apply a temporary modified bitumen roof over it to keep the building watertight while we continued working," he explained. "We then poured a new cellular tapered lightweight concrete deck on that and topped that off with the adhered, felt-back Sarnafil membrane."

The Sarnafil membrane also offers other



advantages to medical facilities after installation. The roofs are very low maintenance and durable, so they rarely need repairs. They are also very clean roofs, which makes it easy to spot problems or damage. Ballasted roof leaks are covered by gravel or stones, and are therefore much more difficult to find.

A Healthy Partnership

Despite the different problems they faced in installing 19 different roofing sections since 1999, Gowin said that hospital operations were never interrupted while they were working on a roof.

The company installed almost 25,000 square feet of roofing over an active surgery suite and worked through issues like noise, vibration, and unexpectedly having to replace large areas of deteriorated metal decking.

T.L. Gowin & Company adjusted their work schedules and kept in constant communication with the Medical Center staff to maintain peace in the operating room — and still get the job done in a timely manner.

Michael Rauth spoke glowingly of T. L. Gowin & Company and their work with Sika Sarnafil. "Terry Gowin is one of those people who looks at a project and listens to the owner to determine what is important to the owner," Rauth explained. "Both T. L. Gowin and Sika Sarnafil have the same values and want to

offer customers a design that works, with ease of installation, and a long-term solution."

Rauth added, "Gowin is also very customer-oriented, and will do extra things like power-wash the roof when he's completed the installation. His business philosophy has made him a great example of a small business success story."

Gowin said that his partnership with Sika Sarnafil is a big reason his company has been so successful. "Sika Sarnafil is very professional and very responsive, and above all I can trust them," he stated. Yarbrough added, "We want to work with Sika Sarnafil because they are so supportive and because their product is so easy to install."

Regarding the Southern Regional Medical Center, Gowin said, "We would not even consider using another roofing system on this roof because of the comfort level we have with Sika Sarnafil and its products."

Prognosis: Excellent

All parties involved are confident that the Sika Sarnafil roofs on the medical facility will enjoy excellent health in the long-term.

Rauth said, "Southern Regional Medical Center wanted roofing systems which would require minimal maintenance. They were also looking for some consistency in their hodge-podge of mismatched roofs. T. L. Gowin & Company and Sika Sarnafil were able to meet all of their needs — and then some."

Sika Sarnafil

A Division of Sika Corporation
100 Dan Road
Canton, MA 02021
Telephone: 800-451-2504
Telefax: 781-828-5365
www.sikacorp.com

Sika Sarnafil

A Business Unit of Sika Canada Inc.
6820 Davand Drive, Unit 2
Mississauga, Ontario L5T 1J5
Telephone: 905-670-2222
Telefax: 905-670-5278
www.sika.ca

Sika®

Sarnafil®