

# Project Profile



## **Project**

Hancock Medical Center  
Bay St. Louis, MS

## **Owner**

Hancock Medical Center

## **Roofing Contractor**

ReflecTech, Inc., Picayune, MS

## **Roofing Subcontractor**

Atlantic Architectural Sheet Metal, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

## **Roofing Systems**

Adhered Feltback Roof System using white 60 mil, G410 EnergySmart Roof® membrane for low slope areas and Décor Roof System using custom color azure blue 60 mil, G410 membrane for steep sloped areas.

## **Project Size**

100,000 square feet

## **Completed**

August 2006

## **Sika Sarnafil Heals Hospital's Wounds from Hurricane Katrina**

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf coast in August, 2005, one place that sustained heavy damage was the Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The entire first floor of the hospital was flooded with three and a half feet of water, and the metal and EPDM roofs of the building also suffered damage from the storm's wind gusts of 140 miles per hour. The hospital workers were affected in an even more direct way — 70 percent of the center's 525 employees lost their homes.

Despite its wounds, the 104-bed community hospital had to continue functioning to treat those injured by the Category Four storm. Hank Wheeler, director of facility services at Hancock Medical, was one of those employees whose home suffered severe damage, but he directed his attention to repairing the hospital, working on-site in a trailer by day and fixing his own home in the evening.

One of Wheeler's first tasks was to address the hospital's EPDM roof, which had suffered substantial damage from wind and

blowing debris. Portions of a newer metal roof also experienced leaks due to panels that shifted under the force of the wind.

## **Sika Sarnafil Offers Cost-Effective Relief**

Hancock Medical called upon ReflecTech, Inc., a roofing and construction company based in Picayune, MS, to reroof the building. Larry Williamson, vice president of operations for ReflecTech explained, "We had two choices. We could remove and replace the metal portion of the roof, or we could leave the existing metal roof in place and put the Sika Sarnafil membrane over that."

Hancock Medical decided to go with the latter choice, for several reasons. Wheeler said that one reason was that Sika Sarnafil's single-ply membrane would eliminate the expansion and contraction problems of a metal roof. Williamson added that the Sika Sarnafil roof would also offer energy savings, because the EnergySmart white membrane that replaced the black EPDM would reflect the sun's heat off the roof, reducing cooling expenses. In addition, insulation could be added to the metal roof, increasing its R-value.

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Sika Sarnafil's reputation for quality, and its performance on other roofs during the hurricane were other factors. "Sika Sarnafil has a solid reputation and past performance showed it was a good product," Wheeler stated.

### An Installation Fraught with Ups and Downs

ReflecTech contracted with Atlanta Architectural Sheet Metal, Inc. of Atlanta to do the installation of the new roof. The company's president, Dana Erickson, said the project was taxing but rewarding.

"On the metal portion of the existing roof there were 104 different slopes in 30,000 square feet, which was very challenging," he said. He added that the peaks of the roof – which were 50 to 60 feet off the ground – were the highest points in Bay St. Louis, and required special safety equipment such as full harnesses and safety cables for the installers.

Erickson said another challenge was obtaining basic materials, since supplies in the local stores had been depleted following Hurricane Katrina. "Instead of just going down the street to the local hardware store I had to go to Mobile or Montgomery (90 to 100 miles away) just to keep our crew in the basics that were required for everyday work," he said.

Fortunately obtaining the new roofing membrane and materials from Sika Sarnafil wasn't an issue.

The replacement of the EPDM portion of the roof began with the tear-off of the old membrane and any wet insulation. Once those materials were removed, a layer of DensDeck® Prime Roof Board was mechanically attached over the lightweight insulating concrete and then covered with Sarnafil G410 fully adhered membrane.

Installation of the Décor system over the metal roof involved filling the flutes of the existing roof with polyisocyanurate insulation, followed by Dens Deck Prime roof board. The azure blue membrane was then adhered directly over that, followed by the Décor ribs. "We installed over 1,000 feet of



The Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, features a Sika Sarnafil white, reflective EnergySmart Roof on the low slope portions of the complex and Sika Sarnafil's Décor Roof in azure blue on the steep sloped portions.

Sarnaclad ridge clap metal and over 15,000 lineal feet of the Décor rib on that part of the roof," Erickson said.

The three parties gained tremendous admiration for each other as they worked closely together. "Both Mr. Williamson and Mr. Erickson were wonderful to work with and very experienced with Sika Sarnafil products," Wheeler said.

"Wheeler was absolutely incredible," Erickson said. "He was determined to get things done regardless of his situation. Despite being overwhelmed with so many things, he was the best guy you could ever hope to work with."

### A Bright Ending

Hancock Medical now benefits from a roof that is not only leak-free, but which is also saving the hospital money in energy costs.



A worker gives the Hancock Medical Center's handsome, new roof a final check following installation.

"Although we aren't finished installing our automated energy management system, we already noticed a difference last summer," Wheeler said. "In the past we would have days when the humidity would make the building pretty darn warm, but last summer, even with some of our compressors out of service, the building stayed cool and no one noticed the loss of the equipment."

The new roof is attractive, too. "In my 24 years of roofing I have never seen a roof that is as good looking. It's beautiful," said Erickson. Wheeler added, "I'm very happy with the results – and receive many compliments on my new 'metal roof.' People think I'm joking when I tell them it isn't metal."

Erickson said the Décor's appearance and performance is one reason he recommends the system every chance he gets.

"I absolutely love the Décor system – it is much better than a metal system when it comes to longevity, quality of the products, ease of installation, and cost compatibility," he stated. Williamson added, "Sika Sarnafil projects are outstanding and have the best reputation in the industry."

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