Project Profile – Thermal Energy Storage Tank Insulation System

Project Description

- **Client:** Chicago Bridge and Iron (CB&I)
- **Location:** Houston, Texas - USA
- **Type of Tank:** Thermal Energy Storage Tank (TES)
- **Technology:** Trac-Loc Vertical Lock-Seam Tank Insulation System
- **Date Initiated / Completed:** February 2008 / September 2009
- **Contract Scope:** Design, Manufacturing, Installation

Project Details

Chicago Bridge and Iron (CB&I) constructed the tallest thermal energy storage (TES) tank in the world for The Texas Medical Center Central Heating and Cooling Services Corporation (TECO). The tank is 100 feet in diameter and an impressive 150 feet tall, used to provide water for numerous buildings in the Houston, TX downtown medical district. Tyco Thermal Controls secured the contract to manufacture and install the Trac-Loc standing seam tank insulation panel system.

Tracer Experience Comes Through

Tracer, the services division of Tyco Thermal Controls entrusted with over 25 years of tank insulation experience, was up to the challenge to insulate a tank of this height and magnitude. Standing 150 feet tall in the heart of Houston, not only was safety a concern, but the final cosmetic appearance was equally as important. The Trac-Loc team, per the customer’s architectural design, successfully fabricated and constructed the unique pattern that blended the tank with its surroundings. Even with the additional safety practice to only work when the wind was less than 10 MPH, the construction crew was able to complete the project in a safe and timely manner.
Utilizing the Trac-Loc advanced vertical interlocking panel system, Tracer coordinated the installation of the various colored panels spanning the tank sidewall, creating the unique appearance of the tank. Since Trac-Loc panels are prefabricated at the Tracer Warehouse, detailed planning, coordinating, and organizing of the 12 shipments to site was necessary to maintain the schedule requirements of this project. With experience and creativity, and the ability to perform the installation of the Trac-Loc panels without the use of scaffolding, Tracer saved the customer time and money by reducing the schedule duration significantly. The result is a superior insulation system that also enhanced the appearance of the surrounding location.