

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES

Plugged In

August 2020

Silver Lake Plant Unit #4 Chimney Removal Complete!

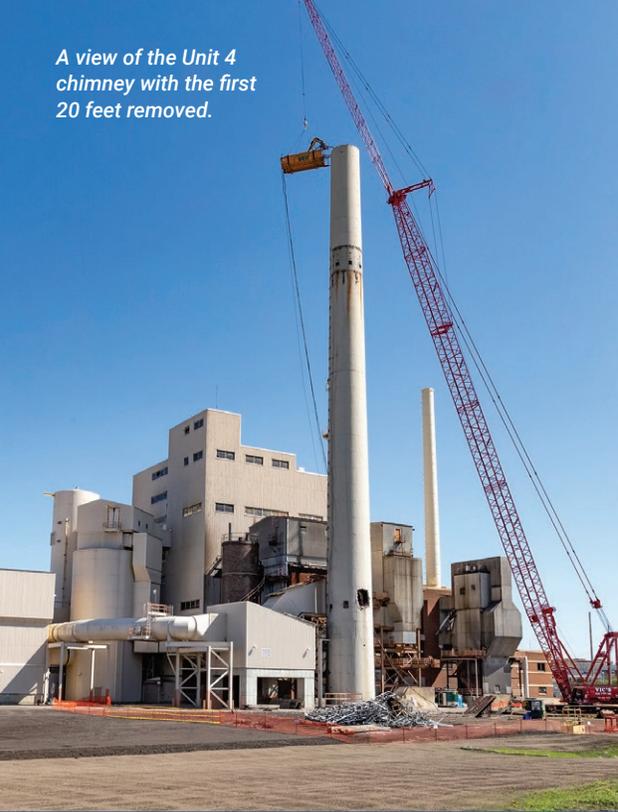
pg. 2

**RPU Connect
Enhancements
Coming Soon!**

pg. 3

rpu
we pledge, we deliver®

A view of the Unit 4 chimney with the first 20 feet removed.



The hanging excavator was used to crunch stone and cut metal from the chimney.



The ground excavator was used to clean up the bottom 40 feet of the structure.



The view looking north shows the tallest structure now below roof level.



Facts About the Unit #4 Chimney

- › It stood 299.5 feet tall.
- › The structure actually consisted of two concentric chimneys; an inner cylindrical lining made of acid-proof brick which carried the flue gas, and an outer concrete column that provided support and protection from temperature changes and the elements.
- › Tests were regularly done on the structure for environmental readings, and regular testing was done on the structure itself.
- › The removal of the chimney started from the top and was taken down by breaking pieces off and knocking most of the debris inside the chimney and removing it from the bottom.
- › A full-size dumpster was hoisted into the air for the project.

A Quick Flyover of the Unit #4 Chimney and Removal Project

The Unit #4 chimney stood tall over the Rochester skyline for 52 years. For much of its time, it worked to expel flue gas when the #4 (50 MW) generator was on.

Due to the RPU Board approving a plan to decommission the Silver Lake Plant (SLP) by December 31, 2015, there was no longer a need for the stack. As it stood silent and unused since 2013, RPU staff compared safety and maintenance costs to removal costs with the ultimate decision to demolish the chimney being the best option.

The next step was for RPU staff to receive bids to remove the chimney and to bring the bids before the RPU Board. The bids came in and the RPU Board chose and approved the final bid. Work began in the spring of 2020; final clearing of debris and repair to adjacent structures at SLP was completed by the summer of 2020.



RPU Connect Enhancements Coming Soon!



We hope that you have already downloaded and been able to enjoy the benefits of the RPU Connect mobile app. If you haven't yet, you're missing out on features such as managing your account, paying your bill, viewing your usage, control over your communication preferences, and connecting with us all through the app and the new customer online portal!

Coming soon, the RPU Connect app will add new features through an Outage Portal. The Outage Portal will give you communication options during a power outage and access to RPU's real-time outage map through the portal.

If you already have the app, the new Outage Portal will show up automatically later this fall in the app. Make sure to watch for future articles in RPU *Plugged In* providing more in-depth overviews of the new features and important dates!

Online Energy Efficiency Workshop

Participate in our FREE Neighborhood Energy Challenge online workshop and qualify for a \$50 home energy audit, valued at \$300!

Thursday, September 17, 2020
6:30–7:30pm

Register to receive an email link to the online event:
Call: 888.734.6365 -or- Email: sbootscamp@mncee.org





Visitors may be asked to wait in line outside in order to maintain proper distancing inside the RPU Service Center lobby.



The RPU Service Center lobby has one line area with distancing markers on the floor. The walk-up areas all have glass installed now.

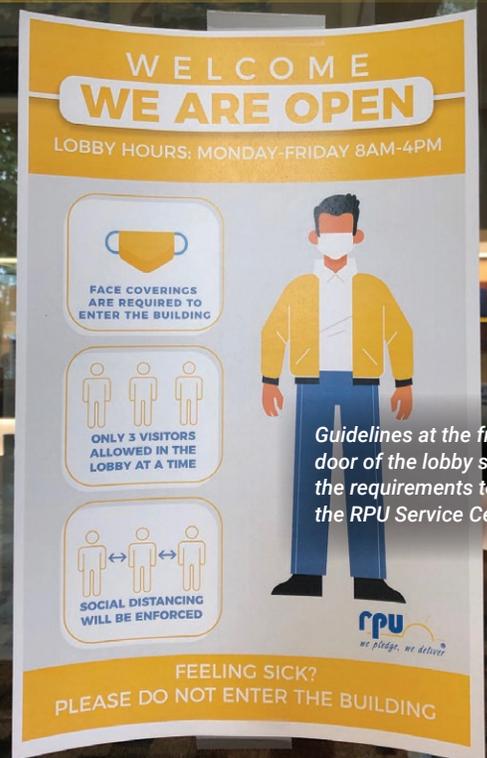
Things to Note if You Are Planning to Visit the RPU Service Center

We are continuing to recommend that all possible customer interaction with RPU be electronic or over the phone at this time. If you must visit the RPU Service Center, please be aware of our lobby changes and in-person requirements.

The RPU Service Center lobby hours are now Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. RPU Customer Relations staff are available on the phone (507.280.1500) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, to help customers with their RPU needs.

RPU staff are working safely at the Service Center and from home, depending on their job and remote capabilities. This time has certainly been a test of creative teamwork and how to maximize resources remotely. The great thing is that RPU employees want to embrace new ways to work as a team to ensure that we are meeting and exceeding the expectations of our customers.

One of the floor markers for social distancing.

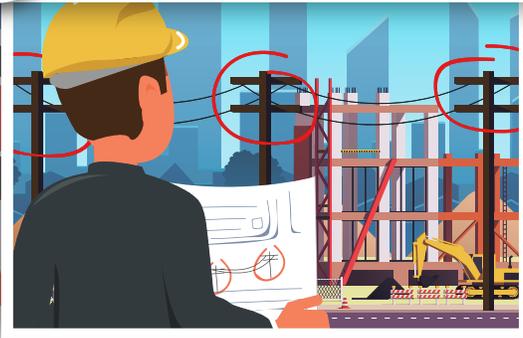


Guidelines at the front door of the lobby show the requirements to enter the RPU Service Center.

OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY



1 Locate all overhead power lines.



2 Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.



3 Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.



4 Beware of fencing near power lines.



5 Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.



6 Lower equipment apparatus before driving.



7 Never spray water near power lines.



8 Stay at least 35 feet away from fallen power lines.



RPU Commercial Customer Corner: Dry Up Moisture Problems in Your Building

When even small amounts of water are allowed to accumulate on the surfaces inside a building, the resulting moisture and mold problems can be costly. Mold and fungi can lead to air quality problems and sick building syndrome, while condensation can lead to structural damage. Understanding the causes of moisture buildup is the first step in finding the right control solution.

Relative Humidity and Condensation

Temperature affects humidity, which is the amount of water vapor in the air. Relative humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air compared to how much moisture the air can hold at that temperature. Warm air can hold more moisture than cold air. The dew point is the temperature at which air can't hold any more moisture. As the temperature decreases, condensation accumulates on colder surfaces, such as walls and windows.

The humidity level in a building can vary. If moist air is removed to another area where a drop in temperature occurs, condensation may result. The first strategy for reducing condensation is uniform air temperature control; another is to remove the moisture. Desiccant materials and duct heaters can effectively remove moisture from the air, lowering relative humidity. The moisture can then be dispersed through ventilation or redirected to other areas of the facility where moisture is needed.

If relative humidity reaches 70% at warm temperatures, mold growth can occur. This often happens in poorly heated or ventilated areas. The following strategies will help control growth:

- Reduce humidity.
- Improve air circulation.
- Increase insulation levels.
- Improve background heating.

Temperature and Humidity Control

Mold and mildew are commonly found on the surface of exterior walls or behind wall coverings. A room with an exposed corner is typically colder than adjoining rooms, becoming a potential site for condensation. If mold and mildew growth are found, the relative humidity at the room's surface is likely to be above 70%. If the problem is temperature related, add insulation or improve heat flow to increase the temperature of cold surface areas.

If the relative humidity at the increased temperature is higher, control strategies should focus on decreasing moisture content. Solutions for reducing relative humidity levels include:



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- Control surface vapor pressure to prevent warm outside air from contacting colder interior finishes.
- Relocate ducts and diffusers to eliminate cold spots.
- Maintain vapor barriers, facing sealants, and insulation regularly.
- Increase the room temperature to avoid overcooling.

Desiccant Dehumidification

Cooling humid air is expensive because the water changes from vapor into liquid condensate, releasing heat. Many facilities, such as restaurants, are often overcooled during the summer to maintain comfort. In these cases, a more economical option is to first reduce the moisture content in the air using desiccant dehumidification.

Desiccants are materials that naturally absorb moisture, such as activated alumina crystals, silica gel, and lithium chloride solutions. In a liquid system, the solution is sprayed into the incoming air, removing the moisture. In a dry desiccant system, a rotating wheel containing solid desiccants dehumidifies outside air continuously as it enters the cooling unit.

Desiccant systems are very efficient and their use is well-established in applications, such as ice arenas, hospitals, supermarkets, schools, and restaurants. The higher installation and maintenance costs of desiccant systems are offset over time through energy savings and lower utility bills.

If you have any questions about efficiently managing humidity in your building, please contact your RPU representative.

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS!



Environmental Achievement Awards are given annually for outstanding environmental achievement in Olmsted County. **Nominations are sought for individuals, families, youth, organizations, or businesses in any or all categories:**

- Climate Change
- Conservation
 - Education
 - Energy
 - Renewables
- Sustainable Food Production
 - Water
 - Other

Download a nomination form at www.rpu.org

DEADLINE IS OCT 2.

2020

*Photo by Keith Anderson
2018 Environmental Achievement Award Recipient*

WATER CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap!



Washing a car uses about 150 gallons of water, so by washing less frequently you can cut back your water use.



CONSERVE & \$AVE

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip for Plugging into Savings!



Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows during the day. In cooling seasons, about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters to become heat.



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RPU Service Center Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on:
Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day

Social Media:

- rochesterpublicutilities
- @rpuoutages @rpualerts
- Rochester Public Utilities
- blog.rpu.org
- RPU TV

Mobile App:



Customer Service: 507.280.1500

Toll-Free: 800.778.3421

Pay By Phone: 855.631.3643
(toll-free • no fee • 24 hrs)

Electric Emergency:
507.280.9191 (24 hrs)

Water Emergency:
507.280.1500 (8am-5pm)
507.280.9191 (5pm-8am)

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*****POLICE ~ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS*****

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020



The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office and Rochester Police Department are pleased to announce another year of participation in National Night Out! This year, due to COVID-19, the event will take place on October 6, 2020. We hope you will join us in celebrating!

VISIT ROCHOLMSTEDNNO.COM
TO REGISTER YOUR PARTY.

