

Honeywell Building Envelope Solutions Recommends Polyurethane Spray Foam for Dome-Shaped Ammonia Tank Roof

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Paul Chapman

Line Supervisor

Ammonia Production

Hopewell, Va. Honeywell site



During the weekend of August 27-28, 2011, Hurricane Irene, a category 1 storm, affected Virginia with extensive power outages, heavy rain and flooding. At the Honeywell manufacturing site in Hopewell, the wind tore about half the metal roof off a dome-shaped cryogenic ammonia tank. The roof pieces became tangled in nearby electrical wires, causing the entire plant to lose power.

Once the storm threat had passed, Site Operations personnel began working to re-establish power and restart operations, but also realized they needed a new roofing solution immediately for the tank. They contacted Honeywell Building Envelope Solutions (HBES), and established a plan to replace the remaining metal roof with spray polyurethane foam.

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it’s completed, we know we’ve got a roof we can depend on.”

Spray polyurethane foam fully adheres to irregular shapes and most existing roofing and substrates, so it could be sprayed directly onto the prepared curved tank surface. Foam roofing also has the highest wind-uplift resistance rating in the roofing industry, making it unlikely to sustain damage from future wind events.

With eight men working in rotating shifts 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, the crew was able to replace the entire 12,000 sq. ft. roof in 25 days.

To find out more on how HBES can help your facility, please contact us at:

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