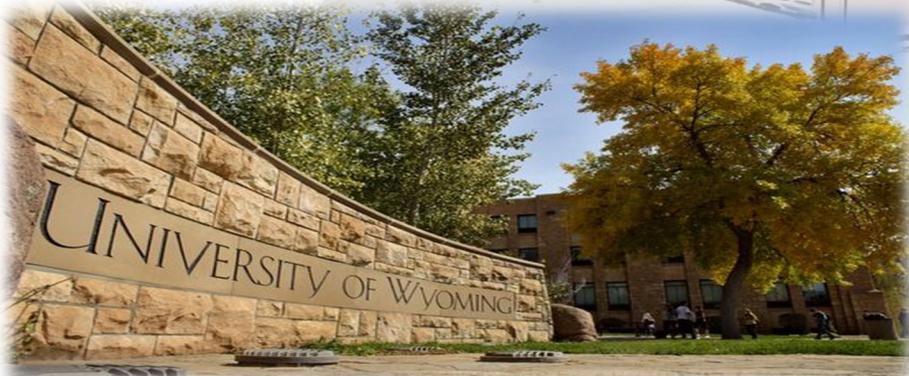


# Addressing Financial, Operational, & Technical Issues of Aging Infrastructure within a Coal Steam System at the University of Wyoming

**Presented By:**  
**Forrest Selmer, P.E. Deputy Director of Utilities  
Management-University of Wyoming**  
**Bill Koller, P.E. Mechanical Engineer-GLHN  
Architects & Engineers**

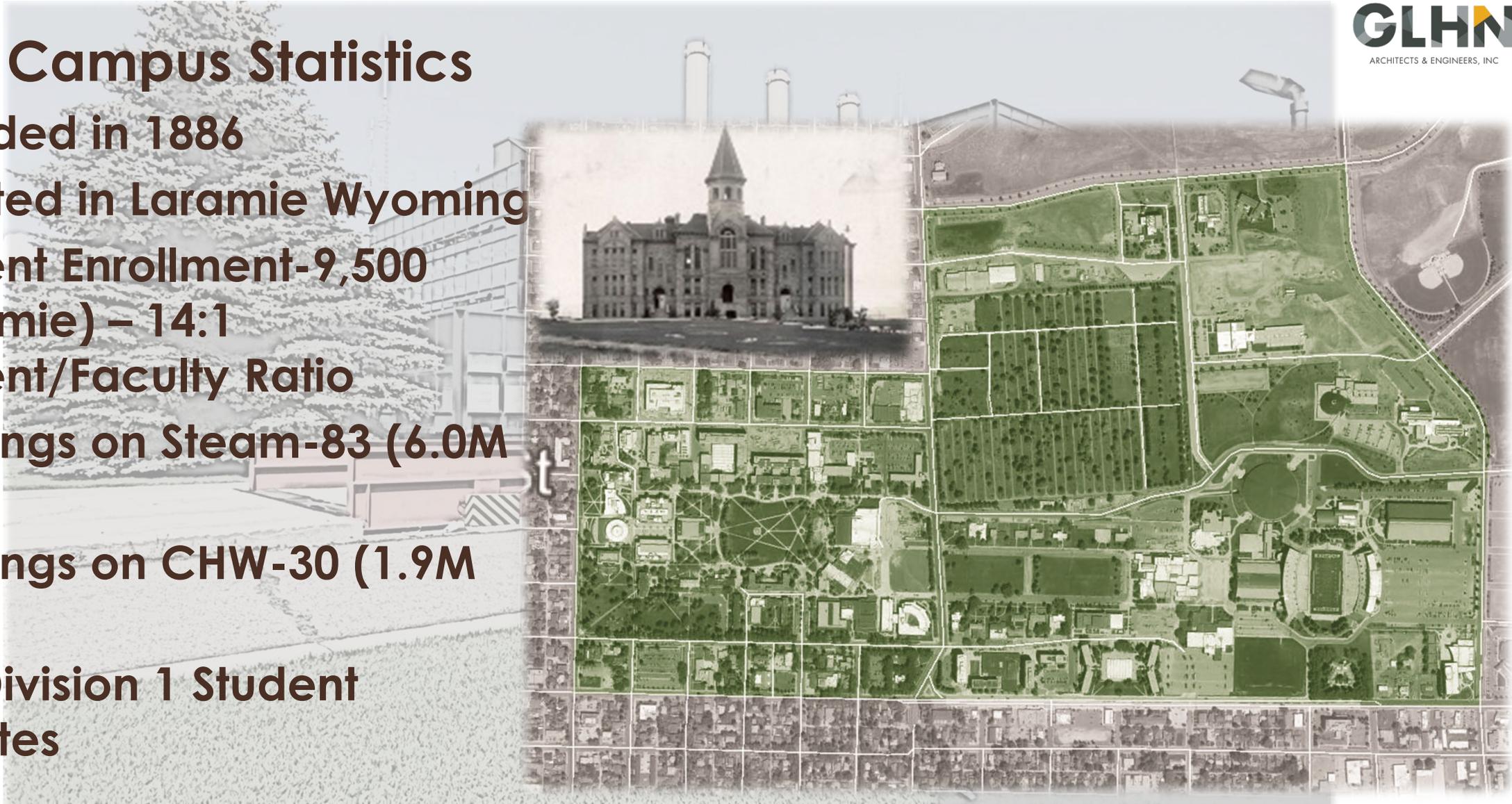
# Presentation Objectives

- Project Background
- Basics
- Case Study-University of Wyoming
  - Process
  - Analysis
  - Implementation
  - Lessons learned



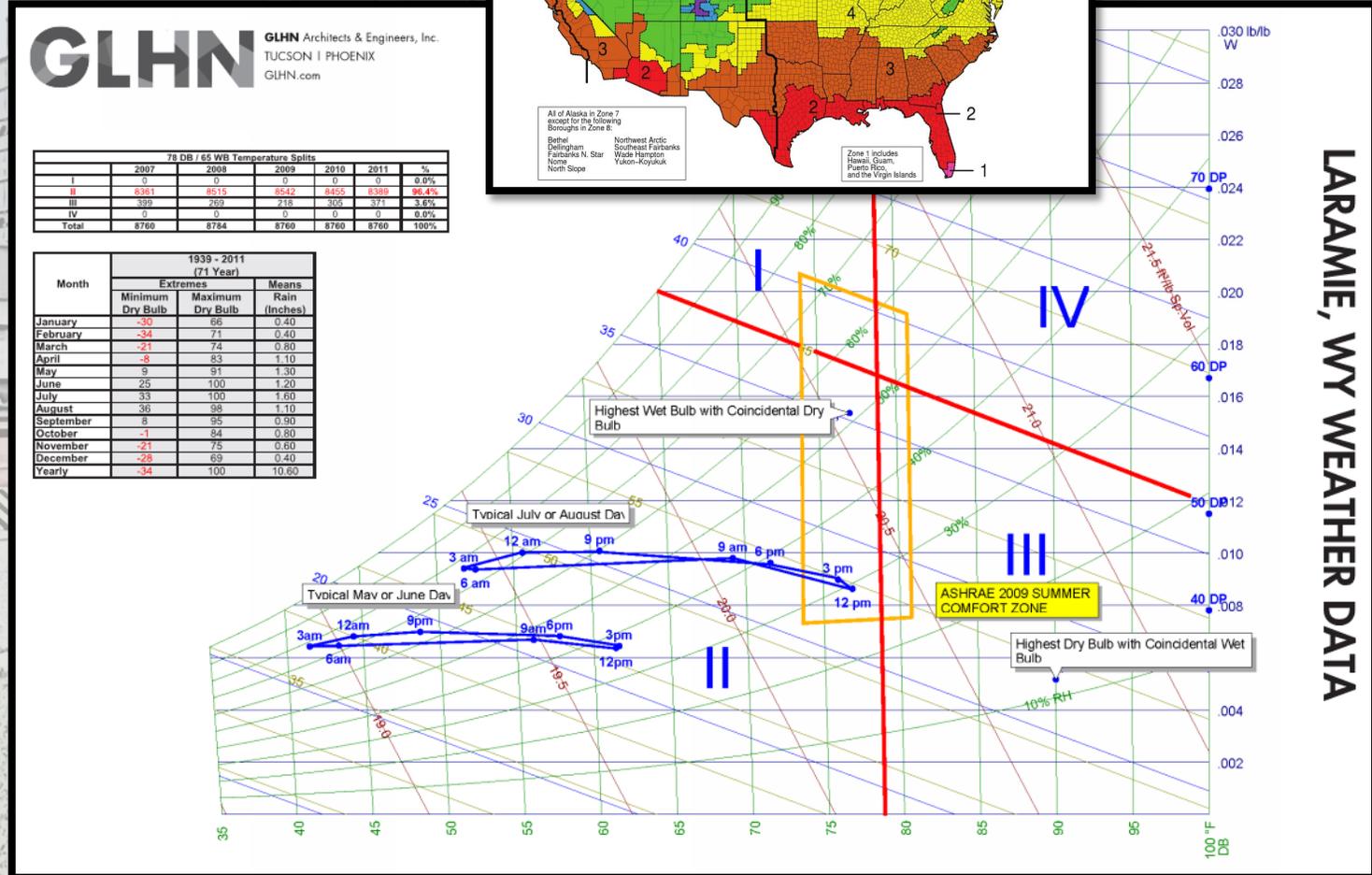
## General Campus Statistics

- Founded in 1886
- Located in Laramie Wyoming
- Student Enrollment-9,500 (Laramie) – 14:1 Student/Faculty Ratio
- Buildings on Steam-83 (6.0M sqft)
- Buildings on CHW-30 (1.9M sqft)
- 400 Division 1 Student Athletes



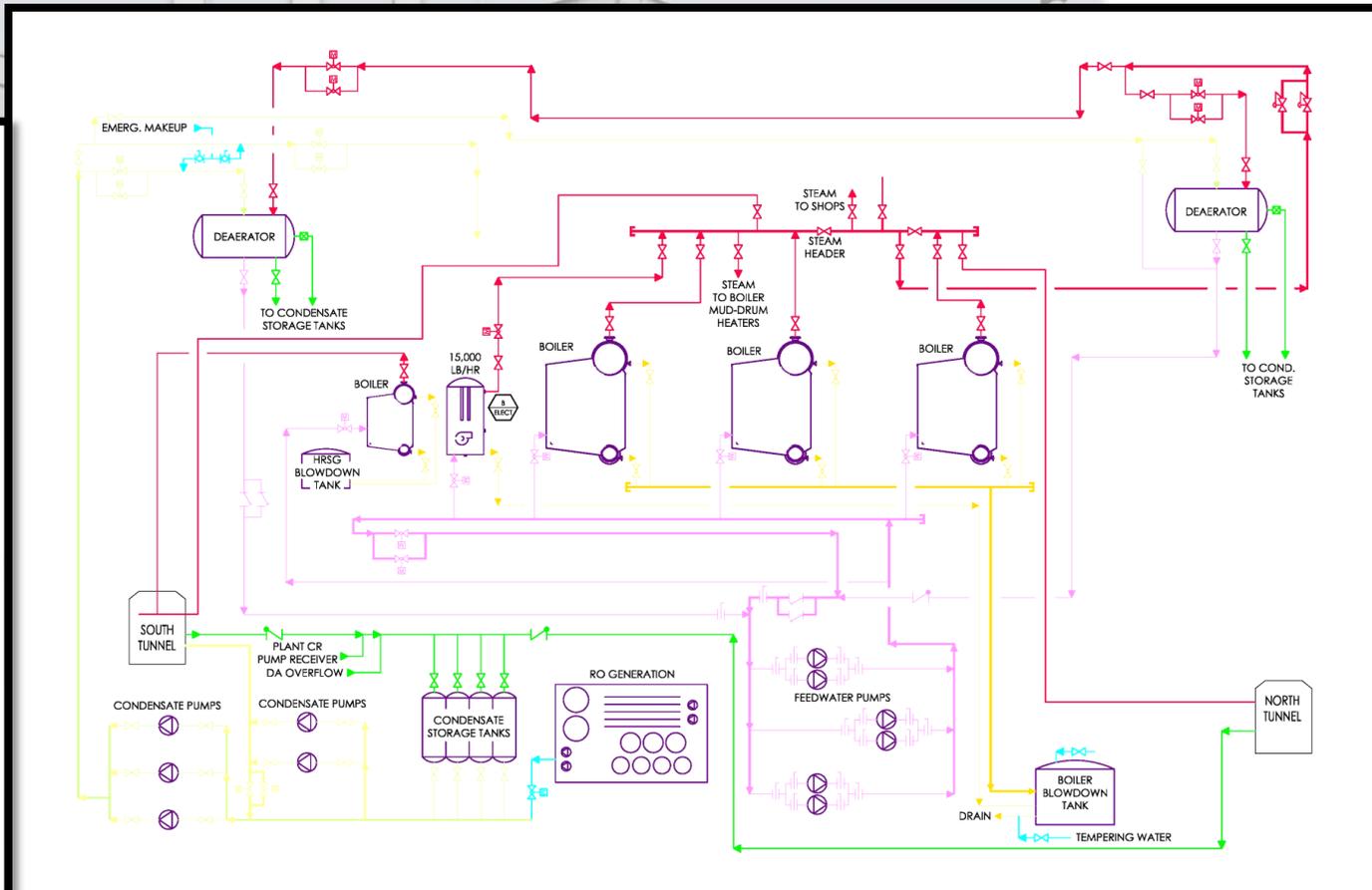
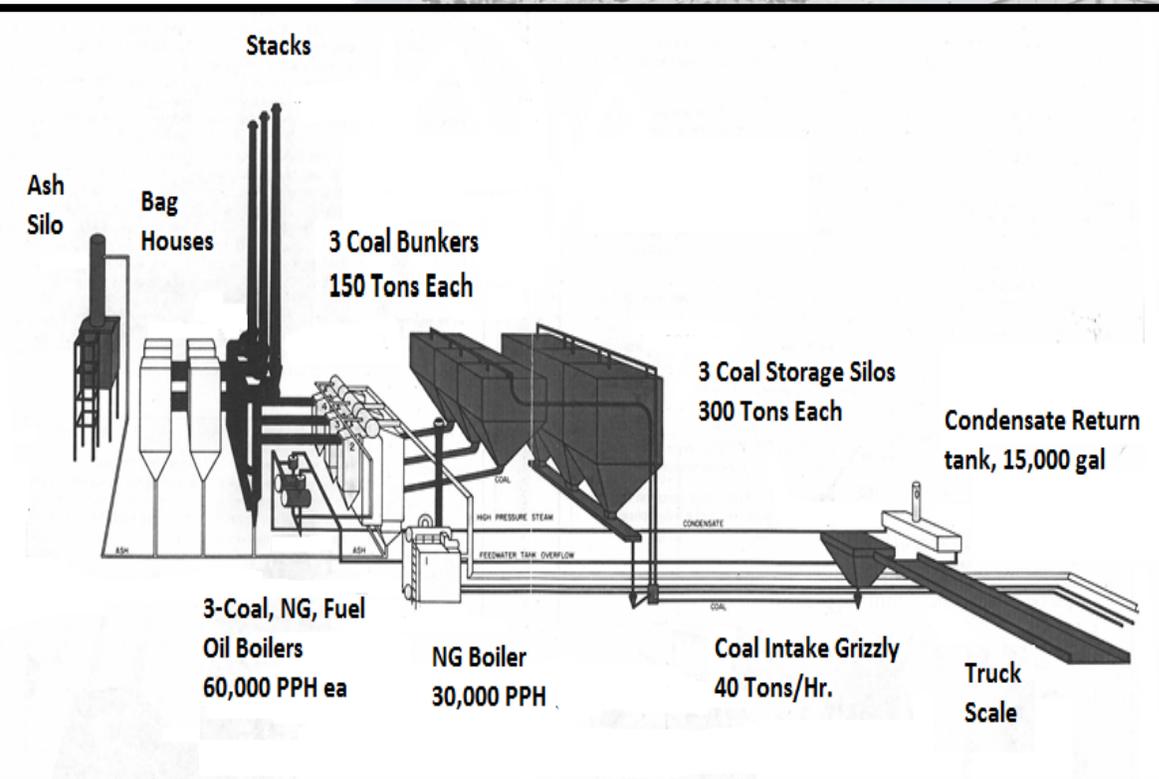
## Laramie Design Conditions

- 7,200' Above Sea Level
- Summer 1%
  - 82 DB, 58 WB
  - 80 CDD (65F)
- Winter 1%
  - -3 DB
  - 8,690 HDD (65F)
- Climate Zone 6B



# Typical Steam System

## Steam Generation and Production System



### Coal Conveyance

### Plant Processes

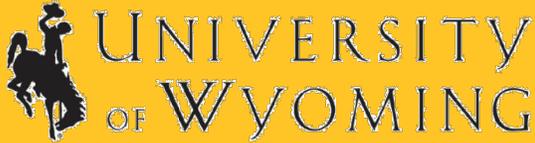
# Campus Heating Information

## Heating System Information

- (3) IBW Coal/NG Fired Nom. 60 Klb/hr Stoker Fed 130 PSIG Steam Boilers
- (1) Keeler NG Fired, Nom. 30 Klb/hr 130 PSIG Steam boiler
- (3) 300 Ton Day Storage Coal Silos
- (3) 150 Ton Coal Bunkers
- Steam Load: 119.6 KPPH max., 11KPPH min.
- Steam Dist. Tunnels ~ 18,500LF
- Steam & Cond. DB piping ~ 25,000LF
- 5:1 Turn Down of IBW's on Coal
- Now Plant is on NG Transport
- NG Used IF Within ~\$0.75/MMBTU of Coal



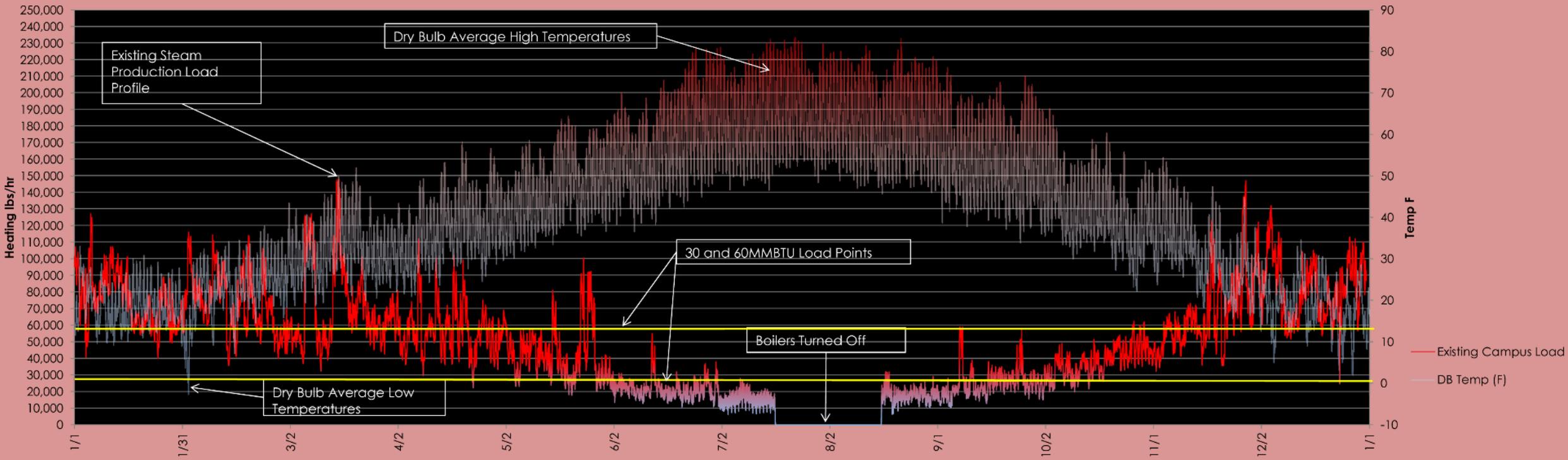
# Campus Heating Information



## Heating Load Profile



EXISTING STEAM LOAD/WEATHER COMPARISON



# Coal Supply

## Coal Fuel Issues

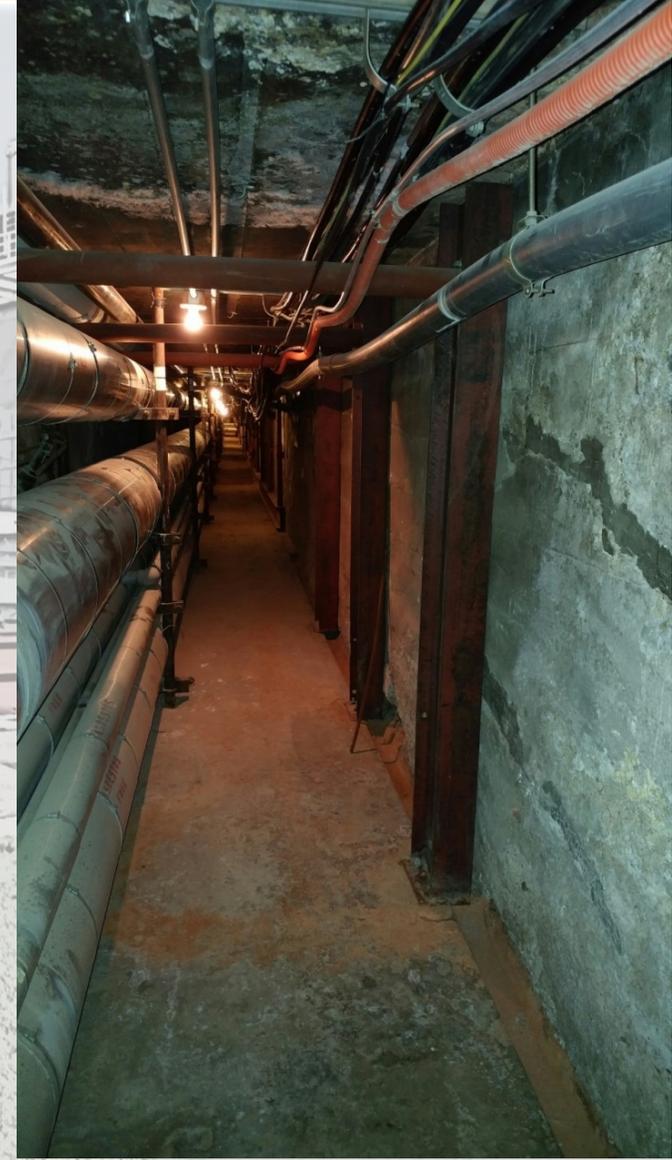
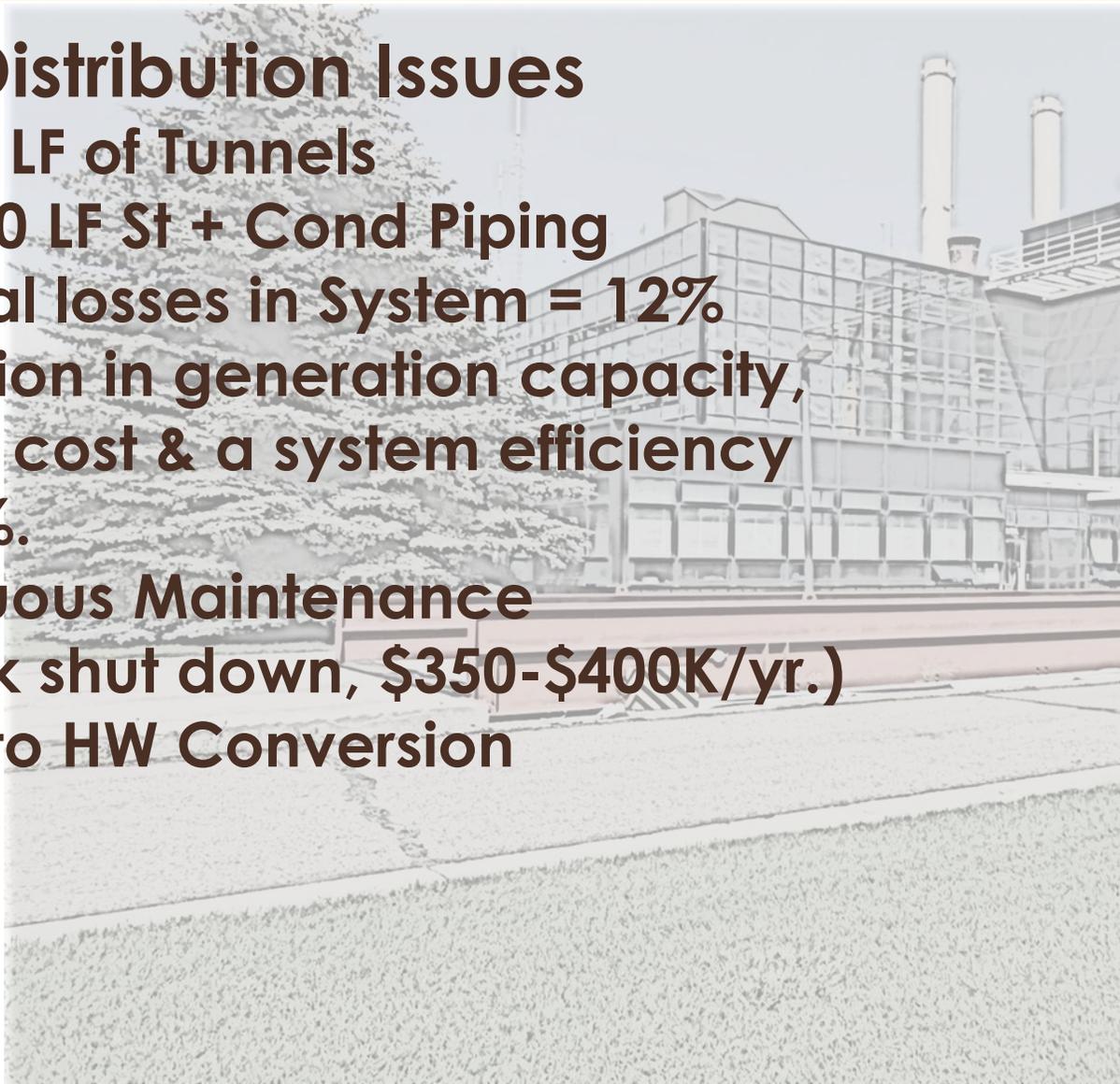
- Stoker Grade
- Trucking Cost
- NG Costs
- Increased Regs
- Coal Quality
- Ash Disposal
- Reliability of supplier
- Increased
- Operational Costs



# Campus Distribution

## Steam Distribution Issues

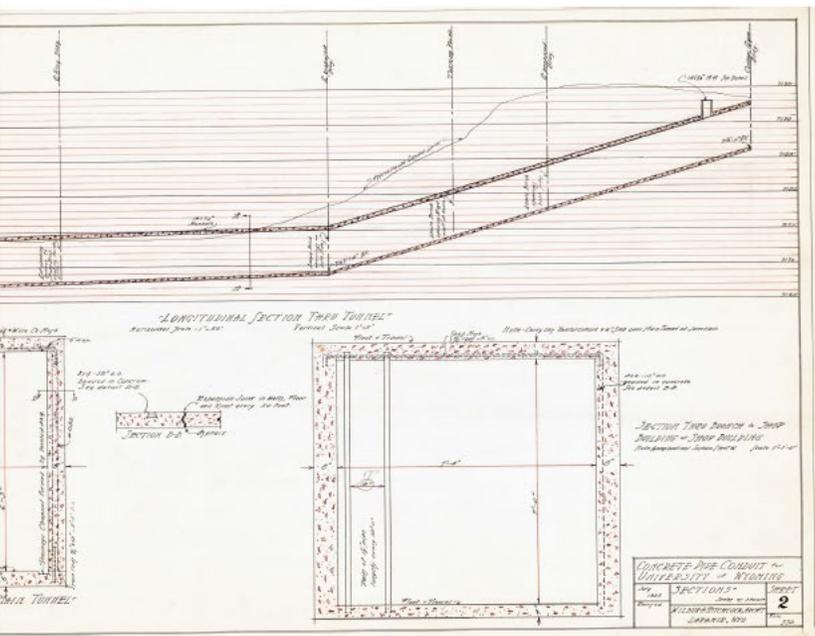
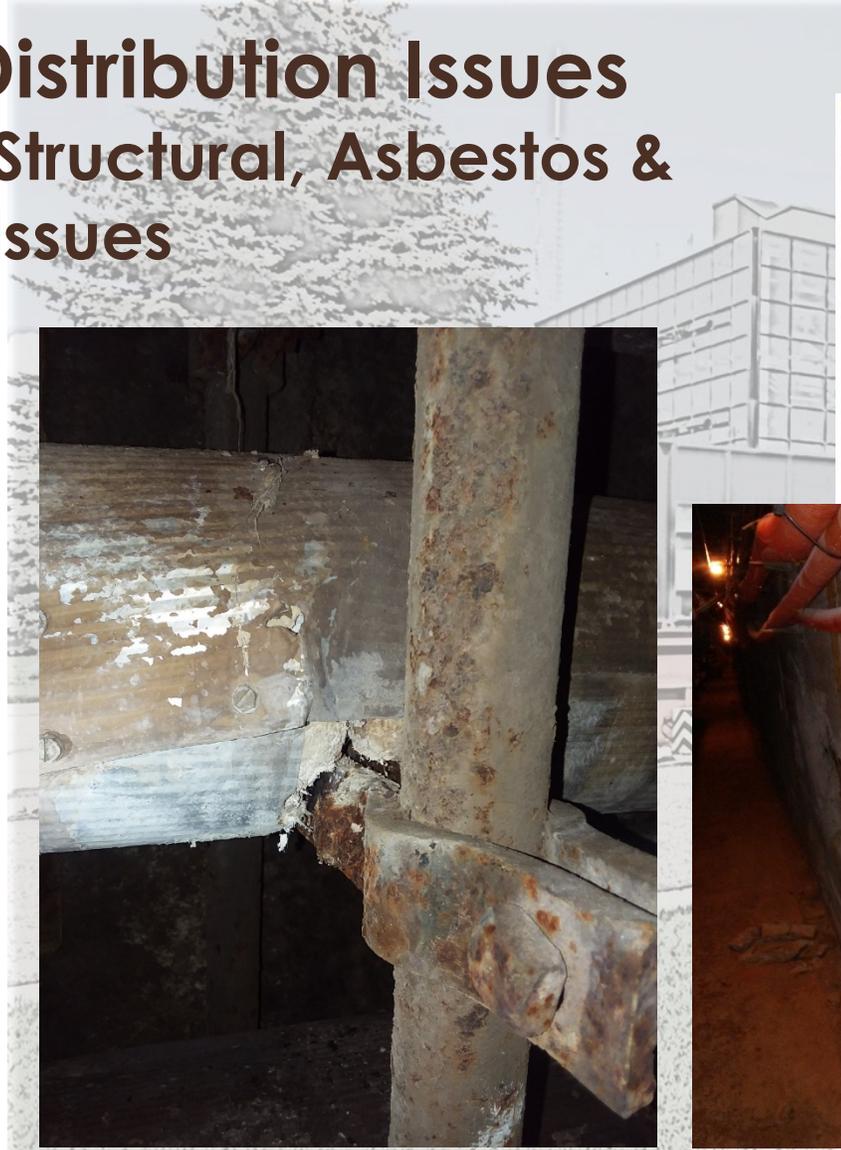
- 18,500 LF of Tunnels
- ~99,000 LF St + Cond Piping
- Thermal losses in System = 12% reduction in generation capacity, ~\$700K cost & a system efficiency of ~53%.
- Continuous Maintenance (4 week shut down, \$350-\$400K/yr.)
- Steam to HW Conversion



# Campus Distribution

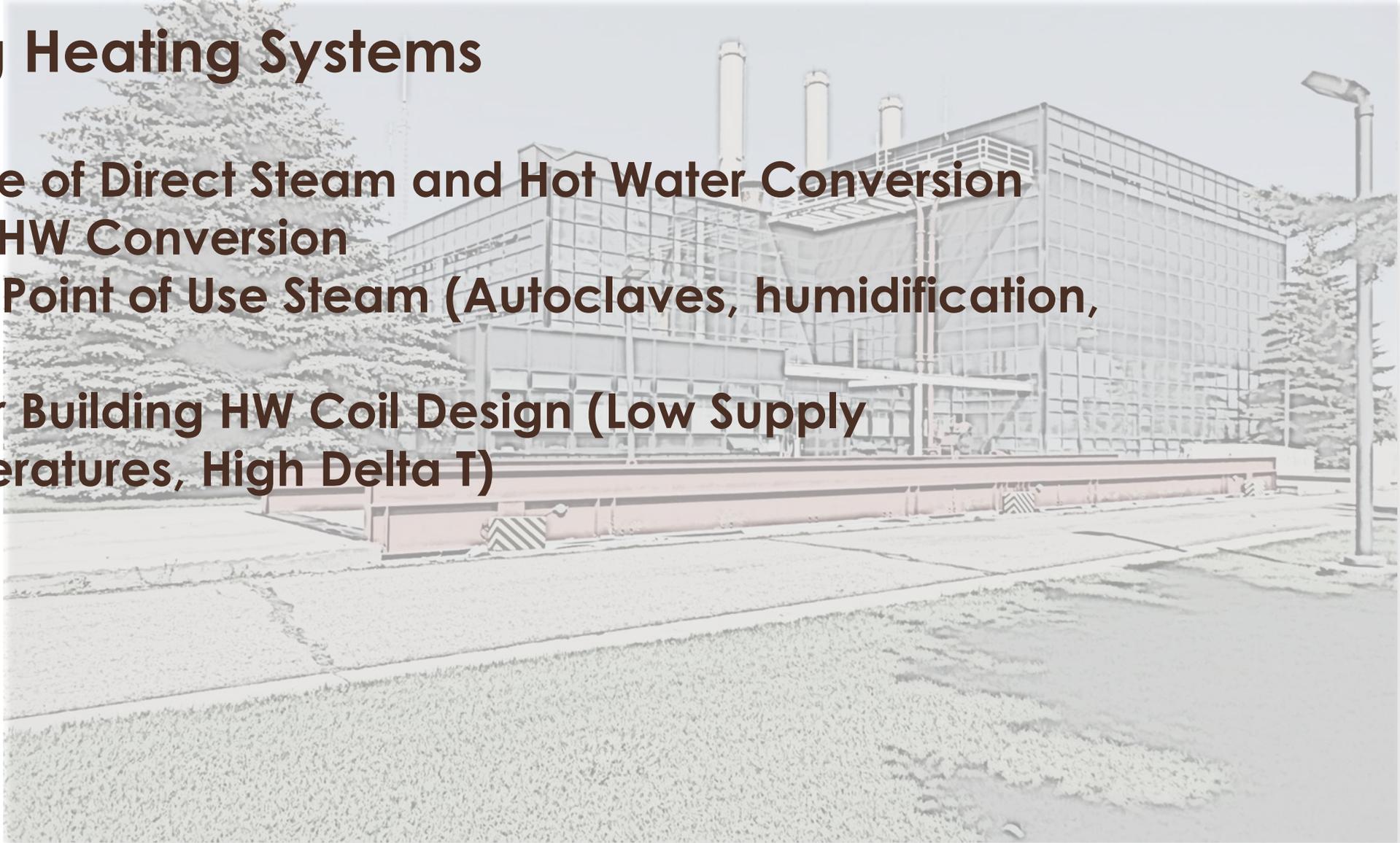
## Steam Distribution Issues

- Tunnel Structural, Asbestos & Egress Issues



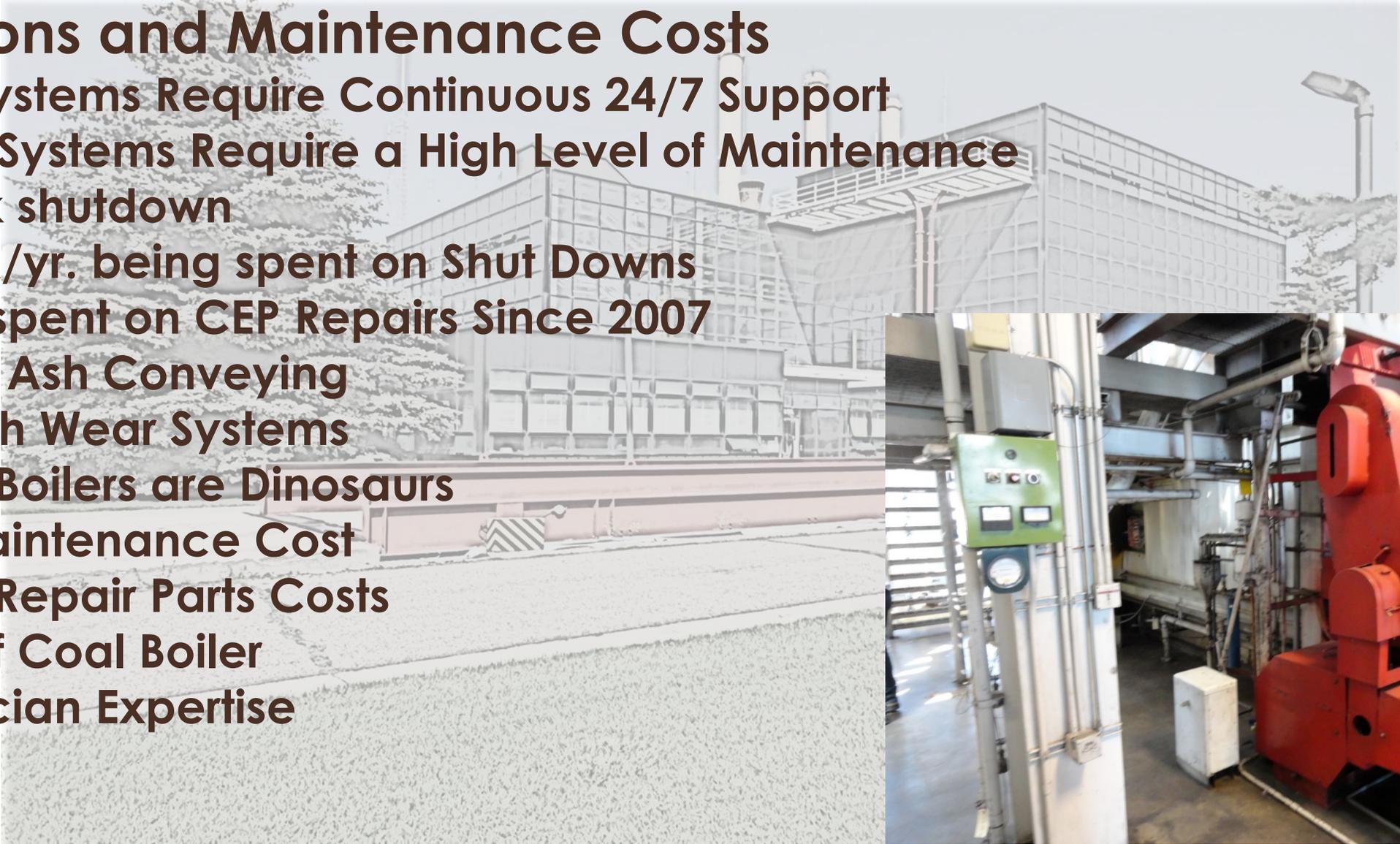
## Building Heating Systems

- Mixture of Direct Steam and Hot Water Conversion
- Local HW Conversion
- Some Point of Use Steam (Autoclaves, humidification, etc.)
- Newer Building HW Coil Design (Low Supply Temperatures, High Delta T)



## Operations and Maintenance Costs

- Coal Systems Require Continuous 24/7 Support
- Steam Systems Require a High Level of Maintenance  
4 week shutdown  
~\$400K/yr. being spent on Shut Downs  
\$6.7M spent on CEP Repairs Since 2007
- Coal & Ash Conveying are High Wear Systems
- Stoker Boilers are Dinosaurs
- PRV Maintenance Cost
- Costly Repair Parts Costs
- Lack of Coal Boiler Technician Expertise



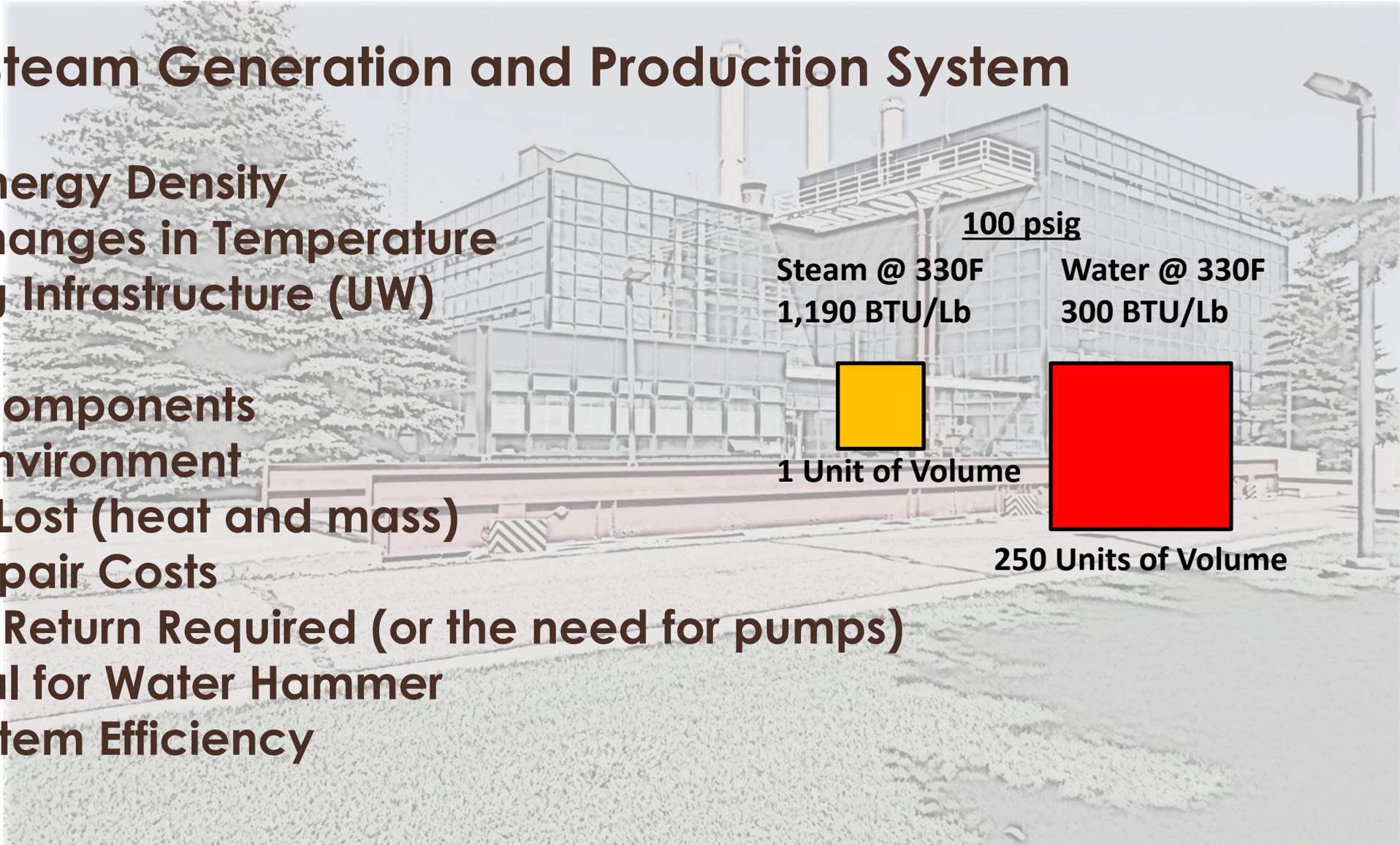
## Typical Steam Generation and Production System

### Pros

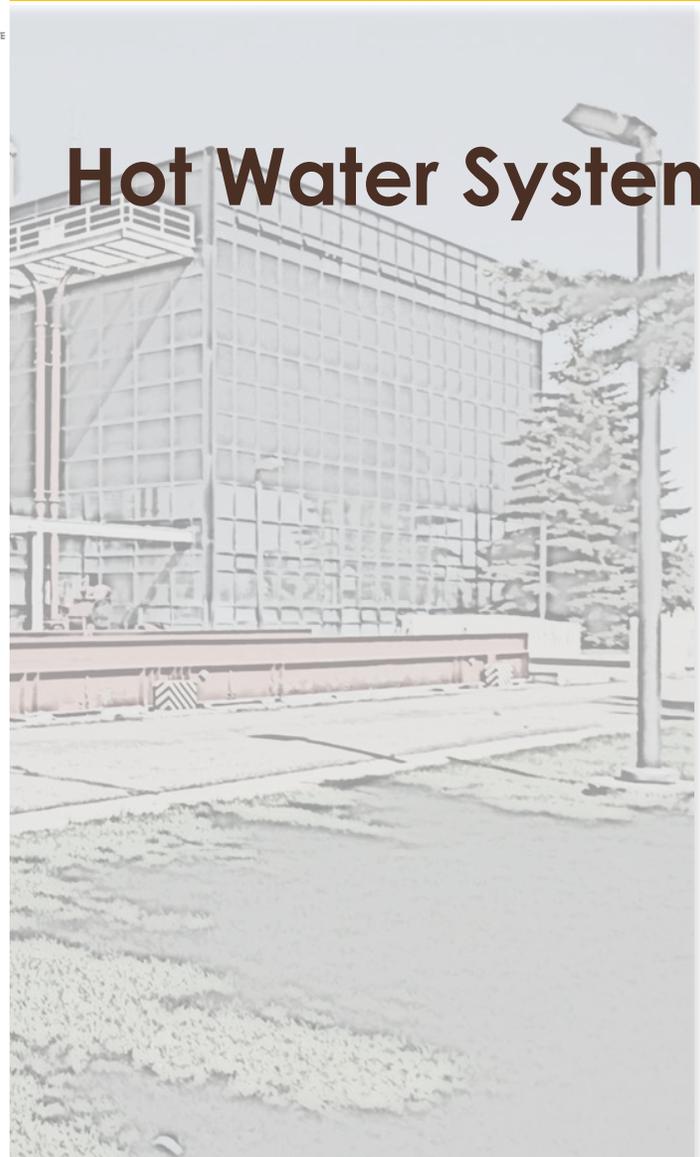
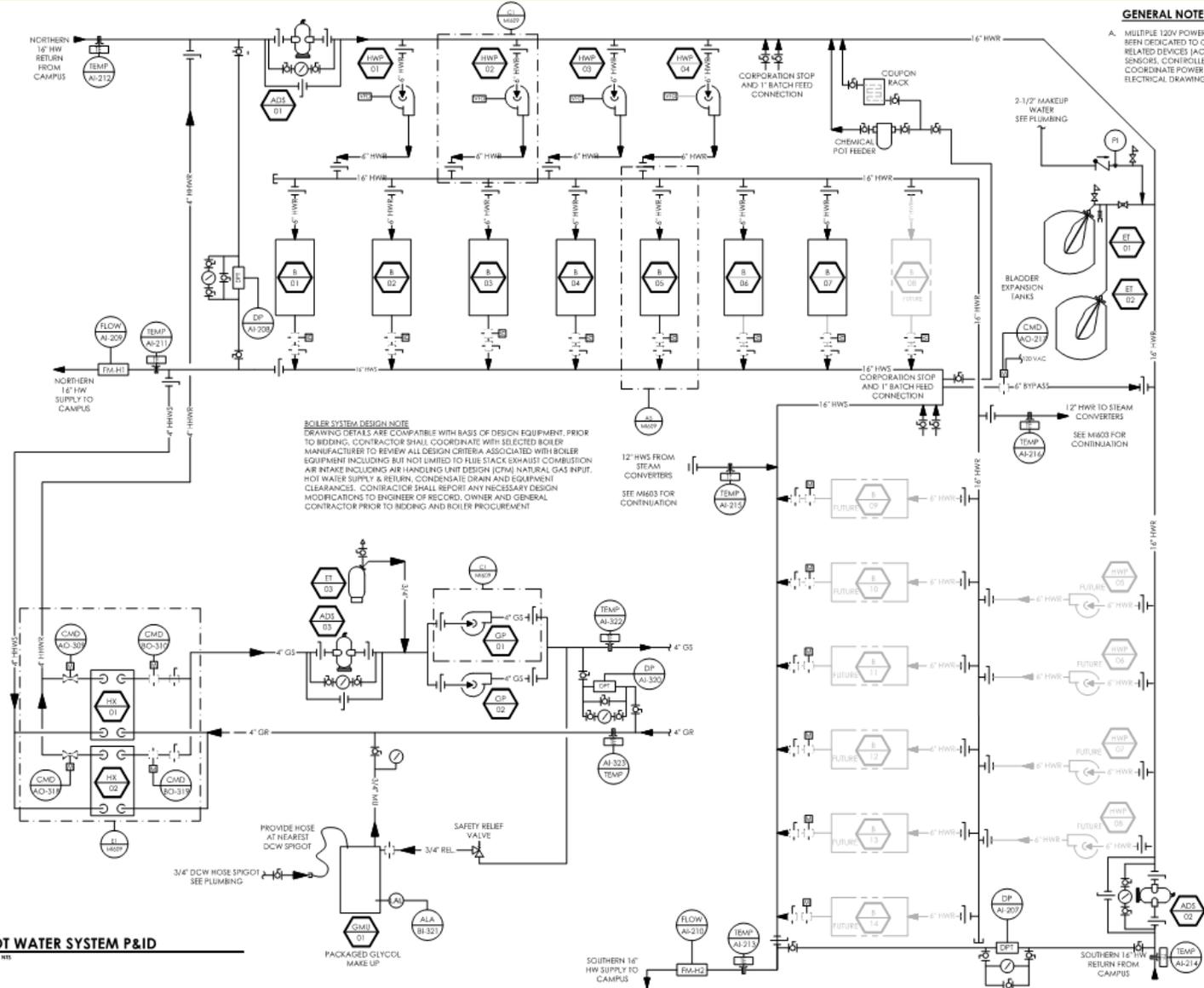
- High Energy Density
- Low Changes in Temperature
- Existing Infrastructure (UW)

### Cons

- Many Components
- Harsh Environment
- Energy Lost (heat and mass)
- High Repair Costs
- Gravity Return Required (or the need for pumps)
- Potential for Water Hammer
- Low System Efficiency



# Hot Water System



**A1** HOT WATER SYSTEM P&ID

# Hydronic Systems

## Typical HW Generation and Production System

### Pros

- Lower Temperature Operation
- System Efficiency
- Number of System Components
- Less of a Hazard over Steam
- Closed System
- Less potential for System Heat Loss
- Overall lower Installed and Operational Costs

### Cons

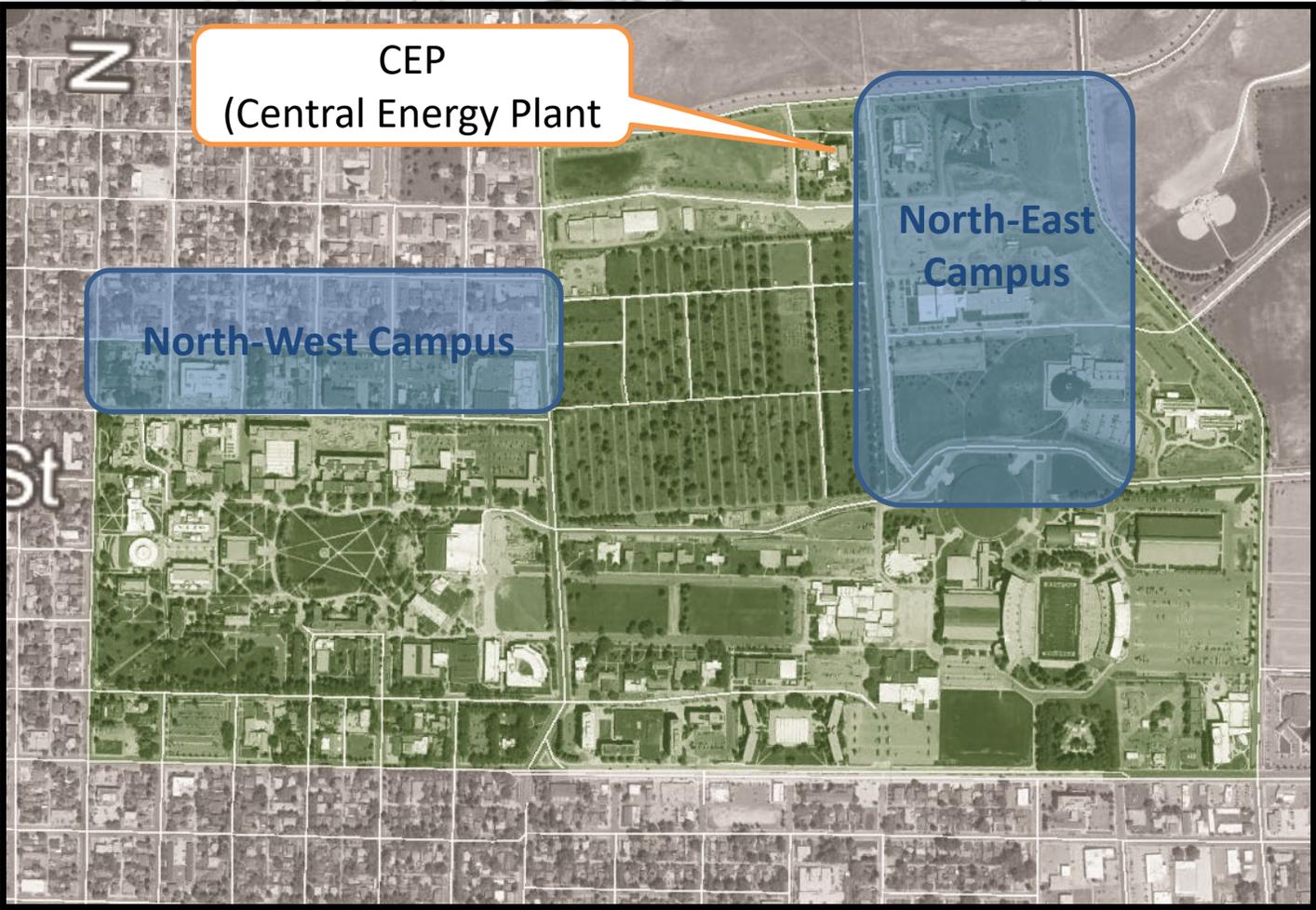
- Larger Piping
- Distribution Pumps
- Flat Plate HX's at each service



# Capacity vs Load Growth

## Projected Major Growth Areas

- North-West Campus-Project Focus
- North-East Campus



## Life Cycle Cost Analysis-Basic Steps

- Facility Condition of Existing System (Equipment, Distribution, Efficiencies)
- Identify Campus Loads (Current and Projected)
- Determine Potential Options
- Identify 30 Year Costs
- Capital-New and Renewal, Equipment, Distribution
- O&M-Utility, Labor, Taxes, Fees
- Compare Performance
- Determine Cost of Financing
- Generate Cash Flow Diagrams
- Compare Net Present Value
- Identify Intangibles
- Perform a Sensitivity Study



# Analysis Results

## University of Wyoming Hot Water Heating System

- **New Satellite Plant Located in the Heart of Projected Load**
- **Start of a Well Insulated Direct Buried HW Distribution System**
- **Modular, Condensing Type Boilers**
- **Distribution Pumps**
- **Provisions for Steam Backup at Plant with Coal as a possible fuel source**
- **System Can Be Expanded**
- **Remove/abandon Unrepairable Tunnels**
- **Unmanned and High Efficient**

**Note: High Heating Coil Temperature Differential Design will Help in System Efficiency**

## Visually Acceptable?

- Overall Architectural Design
- Scale
- Existing Views
- Integration with Masterplan

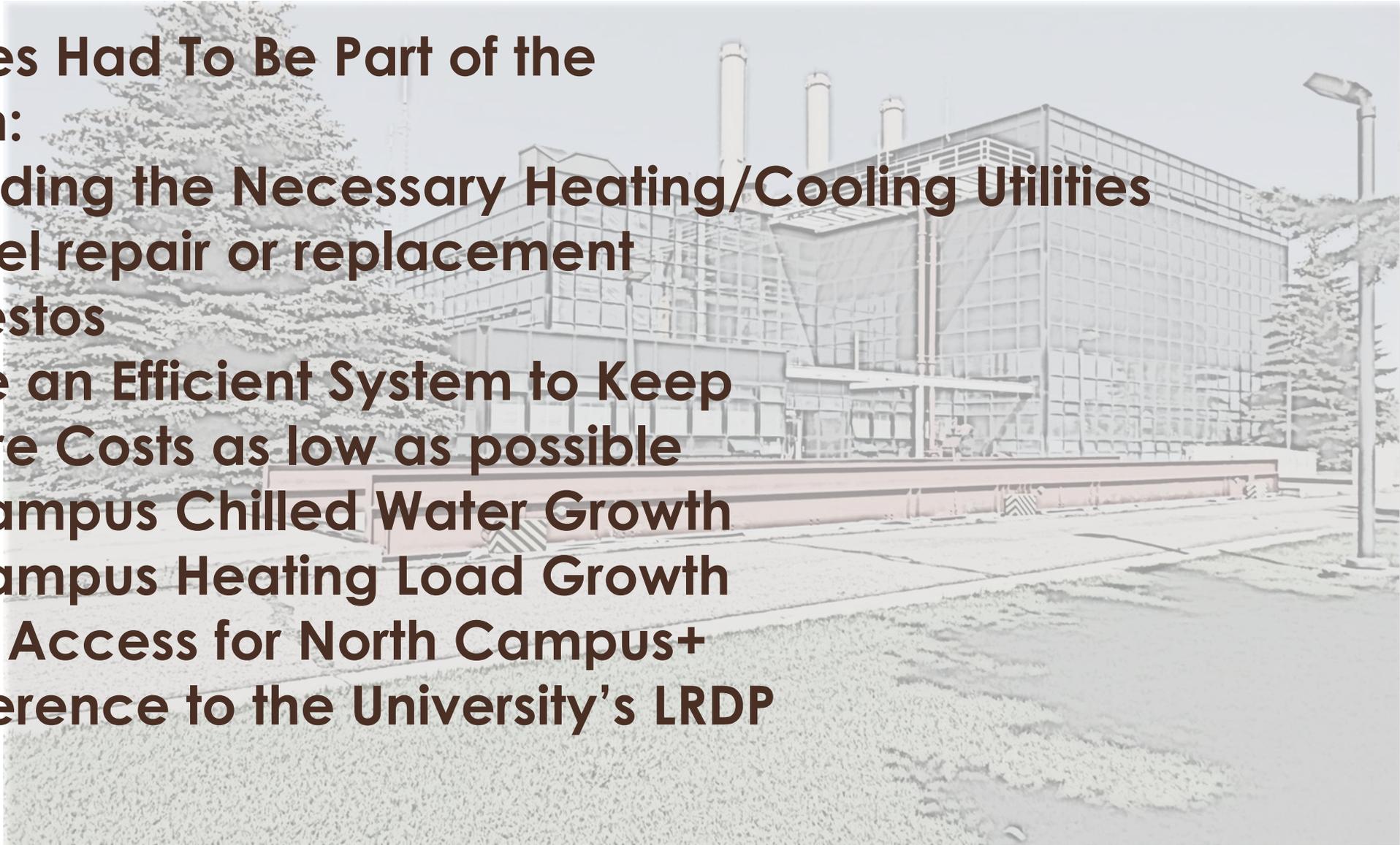
## Relaying the Importance

- Communication to the Admin. Critically Approaching Heating Equipment Firm Capacity
- The 2019 UMP Update Verified Approach
- Synergies Utilized to Up the Priority
- New Lab Designs Created Need for HW/CW
- Buy In From UW Ops to the Trustees Needed

# Appearance / Financial Decisions

## All Issues Had To Be Part of the Solution:

- Providing the Necessary Heating/Cooling Utilities
- Tunnel repair or replacement
- Asbestos
- Have an Efficient System to Keep Future Costs as low as possible
- W Campus Chilled Water Growth
- W Campus Heating Load Growth
- ADA Access for North Campus+
- Adherence to the University's LRDP



# Appearance

## Architectural Design



Contemporary Architecture



Classical Architecture

# Appearance

## Compare Costs and Acceptable Solutions

- 2018 Exterior Design Advisory Committee
  - Architectural Design
  - Location
  - Future Vision of the University



## Outcome

- Transition to a Natural Gas fired, Hot Water Production/ Distribution System with Steam Backup
- Standardize new Campus Design Requirements & relocated site further to the north
- Phase I Construction complete Spring 2021



Thank You!

# Open Question Session

## Contact Information

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