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Photos by: www.SIFerry.com

Wausau Provides Solar-Powered SuperWall System for New York's Long-Awaited Whitehall Ferry Terminal

Wausau, Wis. – Contributing to the revitalization of downtown Manhattan, Wausau Window and Wall Systems® provided its SuperWall system with building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) panels for the 200,000-square-foot construction of the Whitehall Ferry Terminal, helping to make it one of New York City's "High Performance Buildings" as named by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The \$201 million, highly anticipated project was a joint venture of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the New York City Department of Transportation, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Commissioned to replace an interim facility that was constructed after the Staten Island terminal suffered extensive damage from a fire in the early 1990's, the Whitehall Ferry Terminal is a modern gateway to ferry services to the St. George Ferry Terminal via the Staten Island Ferry, carrying 65,000 commuters and tourists per day.



Designed by Schwartz Architects, the New York City based project team also included architectural/engineering firm Earthtech/TAMS Consultants, Ron Evitts Design, and consulting engineers Robert Sillman Associates. City officials have hailed the terminal for its pleasing design and state-of-the-art features.

Bringing together a combination of design and engineering disciplines, Wausau's mechanical, civil and electrical engineering team along with engineers from its research and product development department worked to achieve the project goals for both aesthetics and energy efficiency. A 75-foot high entry hall and crystalline glass façades provide panoramic views of the downtown Manhattan skyline and waterfront, while the PV panels convert sunlight to electricity to meet the buildings' solar power performance needs.

Steve Fronek, Wausau's vice president notes, "This was an exceptionally complicated system culminating years of research and planning to ensure a safe, code-compliant, façade-integrated, photovoltaic system while also ensuring weather resistance, structural integrity and performance standards recognized in all Wausau curtainwalls."



For the Staten Island Ferry Service, Wausau's SuperWall system was factory-fabricated and shipped knocked-down, which helps simplify the wire routing process prior to frame assembly. A collaborative glazing and electrical team installed the BIPV system in compliance with the National Energy Code and local building codes. Overseeing this, the construction management team Tishman/Harris, comprised of Tishman Construction and Frederick R. Harris, worked closely with PV design specialists at Kiss+Cathcart Architects

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Wausau's research and product development manager, Tom Mifflin, explains that, "Façade-integrated PV applications such as these are most successful when the curtainwall manufacturer has a detailed knowledge of PV design practices and NEC and local codes to ensure that PV laminates are adequately supported and compatible with all glazing compounds. We confirm that they are properly oriented and un-shaded to maintain power output and check that the curtainwall framing provides adequate protection and physical space for connectors, conduits, strain relief and other facets of electrical good practices. Wausau works closely with photovoltaic industry consultants and manufacturers to integrate systems and to bolster confidence in this energy technology among the building team and the end-users."

NYSERDA identified the Whitehall Ferry Terminal as a "High Performance Building" under its New Construction Green Building Performance. The features contributing to this recognition are its PV panels, daylight dimming, controlled, demand-based ventilation, and high-performance glazing.

Additional features of the facility include a 19,000-square-foot waiting room along with 6,000-square-feet of concessions, 10,000-square-feet of office space, and an additional 10,000-square-feet of ancillary support and ferry operation rooms. Five escalators, three stairways and one elevator lead to rooftop viewing decks, and the facility is equipped with a superior air conditioning system with radiant floor. Among other service enhancements, three new boats will be added to the ferry fleet, beginning with the Guy V. Molinari, which was launched last summer. Staten Island commuters now have expanded overnight service, and a newly remodeled St. George Terminal, completed last June.



In the words of Borough President Molinari, "The Staten Island Ferry has long been one of the treasures of New York City..." The Whitehall Terminal offers Staten Island commuters "a more aesthetically pleasing atmosphere, more functional waiting room space, and improved access to boats."

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau Window and Wall Systems, please call 877-678-2983, or visit www.WausauWindow.com.

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