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– Wind Resistance in the Windy City –
**Wausau Engineers High Performance Window System
for Chicago’s Prestigious Park Tower**

Wausau, Wis. (June 2001) – Chicago’s Park Tower comprises 67-stories of prestigious mixed-use space that incorporates both an historic 1920s façade and a high performance window system engineered by Wausau Window and Wall Systems®. In what the *Wall Street Journal* called “the highest-profile assignment in Chicago’s latest boom,” this 847,000-square-foot, slender building towers above its low-rise neighbors, yet maintains the area’s turn-of-the-century style.

Located at 800 North Michigan Drive, another Hyatt hotel, known as the Water Tower Hyatt, previously had been situated at this address. The building still serves primarily as a five star, 203-room Hyatt hotel and now shares its upscale location with high-profile retail stores, a health club, spa, a gourmet restaurant and 117 distinguished condominiums.

More than 80 years ago, Chicago’s notable architecture firm Perkins, Fellows & Hamilton designed this brick and terra cotta landmark. Now, architects at Lucien LaGrange & Associates have preserved the four-story, vintage façade and blended it into the renovated property.

The building is instantly recognized on the Chicago skyline by both its height and its four spire, copper crown. Separate canopies distinguish the hotel and tenant entrances with the seventh floor sharing common areas including the pool, terrace and restaurant that cantilevers over the park.

Park Tower not only had to meet aesthetics suitable to its exclusive and historic nature, but also had to meet the Windy City’s demanding environmental challenges. Working closely with James McHugh Construction Company and specialty contractor Harmon Limited, Wausau Window and Wall Systems engineered a pre-glazed, high performance window system that was designed, manufactured and installed on a very tight schedule.

To help Park Tower withstand wind pressures up to 65 psf, Wausau’s high performance, Series 2250 fixed and projected windows were incorporated into a 4 1/2-inch deep master frame. In addition, the window system relies on both an Insulbar® thermal barrier and a dual perimeter seal to resist air and water infiltration. In order to speed installation and allow for field tolerances, Wausau also designed the system with custom, “rock-on” sill receptors and adjustable strap anchors.

(more)

(page two/Wausau Window System on Chicago's Park Tower)

Aesthetics were maintained using Wausau's offset windows to provide a subtle, shadowed look with minimized sightlines. Through these windows, visitors and residents can take a lingering view from Water Tower Place to Lake Michigan's coastline.

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau is an industry leader in the commercial construction application of window and curtainwall systems. Wausau strives to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction. For more than 40 years, Wausau has engineered window and wall systems for a variety of buildings, including schools, hospitals, offices, and condominiums. Wausau works closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value.

Wausau Window and Wall Systems is a part of the Apogee Wausau Group and the Glass Technologies segment of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau, please call (877) 678-2983 or visit www.wausauwindow.com.

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