



Case Study

Gwinnett Center, Duluth, GA

Challenge

The 80-acre Gwinnett Center campus in Duluth, Ga., is the new home to the Arena, Convention Center and Performing Art Center. Located 30 miles north of Atlanta, the Gwinnett Center features a 13,000-seat arena that hosts events from Broadway shows to ECHL hockey games and concerts.

Regulating the water temperature and pressure for a facility of this size can be a challenge. More than a year after the facility opened in January 2003, Josh Robison, director of engineering for the Gwinnett Center, ran into a slightly different “clog” with the plumbing. During a routine inspection, the local health inspector discovered that only cold water was going to restrooms and concession areas.

To the inspector’s surprise, the plumbing system was working fine - original construction plans simply omitted hot water to the lavatories. Gwinnett quickly learned this was a health code problem and that the center needed to provide hot water for lavatories.

“We had to go back and put in a tempered water loop to serve the restrooms,” said Robison. “Adding a thermostatic mixing valve (TMV) to regulate water temperatures was the way to go.”



Solution

A Bradley high-low Navigator® TMV valve was specified as part of the hot water installation. Although the Gwinnett Center has a number of other valves throughout its facility, the Bradley TMV has an important role in controlling water temperature across the 14 restrooms and 85 lavatories in the main concourse of the arena.

Based on previous experience, Jim Goodale, a sales representative with Hunt Warren in Atlanta, knew the Bradley valve would be the best solution. In fact, he knew the TMV would out perform other valves in the building. “I’ve had a lot of trouble finding a good TMV,” noted Goodale. “Many times I find old valves of the floor and facilities are bypassing them because they’re not working. But the Bradley valve has made a believer out of me. They’re simple and durable – maintenance is very easy.”

Gwinnett Heats Up

After Goodale showed Robison the high-low Navigator TMV, he agreed to give the valve a try. Both felt that compared to the other valves, the biggest advantage was the simple design. Goodale sized the valve using the Bradley Web site and the TMV was installed a short time later by B&W Mechanical of Norcross, GA.

According to Alan Daly, a service manager for B&W, the valve installation procedure was outlined step by step and there were no problems – the TMV was set up once and never had to be “tweaked”. He also indicated that the Bradley Navigator was instrumental in securing the project. “The public areas at the arena typically go from zero usage to full load in a matter of minutes, such as during intermission at a concert. The Navigator’s ability to handle the mixing capacity under these conditions was a huge advantage.”

The Navigator line of valves uses single-valve technology to blend hot and cold water to present temperatures with pinpoint accuracy. Using an integral port, the tempered water recirculation line is attached directly to the valve body. This means Navigator valves require fewer connections than a multi-valve system, making installation quick and easy. Each Navigator valve reliably controls varying water demands and is ideal for tempering high volumes of water including those at the Gwinnett Center. “So far, the Bradley TMV is performing flawlessly,” Robison said. “This valve is great because I don’t have to think about it.”

“I’ve seen these valves work in a number of different applications,” added Goodale. “They are designed to control

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Josh Robison
Director of Engineering
The Gwinnett Center

water temperature within three degrees of the set point and at the Gwinnett Center they’re doing just that. The facility is pleased with the performance and the inspector is happy, too.”

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