



# FOAMGLAS®

## UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CENTRAL HEATING PLANT - AMHERST, MA

### PROJECT PROFILE

### FOAMGLAS® Insulation Again The Solution For UMass Two Decades After Initial Use There

FOAMGLAS® insulation has a long history of use at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass.

In 1987, it was installed as part of an underground steam heating system for its southwest dormitory complex which houses and provides food service for more than 5,000 students. At that time, it included 11 low-rise and five high-rise dormitories and three dining commons.

The system includes a 12-inch-diameter live steam delivery line and six-inch diameter condensate return lines. A total of 6,000 lineal feet of concrete-vault-entrenched piping was installed. One of the primary reasons that FOAMGLAS® insulation was used was because the piping system in the trenches is exposed to moisture and water at various times of the year. High compressive strength, dimensional stability and its being lightweight and easy to handle and apply were also mentioned as reasons for its specification in the 1980s.

**Engineering Design & Specification:**

Varderweil Engineers - Boston, Mass.

**Mechanical Contractor:**

Tucker Company - Meridan, Conn.

**Insulation Contractor:**

New England Insulation Company - Canton, Mass.

**Insulation Distributor/  
Fabricator:**

Northeast Specialty Insulation, Inc. - Lawrence, Mass.





## **FOAMGLAS® Insulation Chosen Again 20 Years Later**

A new project was started in May 2006 and ended in March 2007 for construction of a new Central Heating Plant that was connected by approximately 4,000 lineal feet to the existing power house.

This project used 2", 3" and 4" thick FOAMGLAS® insulation on pipes ranging from 10" to 24" in diameter. Aluminum jacketing was secured with stainless steel bands. The steam and condensate return lines tied in with older underground steam lines insulated with FOAMGLAS® insulation. Like in the 1980s, moisture and groundwater were chief concerns.

Environmental concerns were also an issue that made the impermeable characteristic of FOAMGLAS® the perfect choice. The insulation was stored on the job site outdoors in shrink-wrapped pallets. The outside weather was generally cold and wet during the project. Approximately 185,000 board feet of insulation was used in the project.

### **Expectations of Long Service Life**

"I was told the installation was expected to last 20 to 30 years or more," said Pittsburgh Corning Regional Manager Craig Mohr. He added, "We found that the original FOAMGLAS® insulation was still performing well after 20 years. Jim Scott with New England Insulation said that 'Burying FOAMGLAS® insulation is like burying a Coke® bottle... dig it up after 20 or 30 years and it's still a Coke® bottle.'"

**FOAMGLAS®**

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