

St. LOUIS EDITION



# American Contractor<sup>®</sup>

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 **Helmkamp**  
CONSTRUCTION CO.  
*"build with the best"*

Dynegy Midwest Generation;  
Wood River Power Station





*"build with the best"*

Written by Bridget Arenson

As the President of Helmkamp Construction Company since 1994, and its newest visionary, the third generation of family, Brad Farrell, has focused Helmkamp Construction Company on the private repeat professional buyer of construction. Projects are performed in the building, educational, health care, automotive and industrial construction markets. These markets and buyers have daily requirements for construction in the work categories that the company self performs: excavations, pile driving, demolition, concrete foundations and slabs, structural steel, rough carpentry, finish carpentry and millwright equipment installations.

Helmkamp Construction has served in many capacities from

general contractor, design/builder, construction manager, pre-construction services coordinator, to prime contractor or subcontractor.

To provide clients with the end product they expect, Helmkamp has designed its organization to fit the needs of clients to the employees, maximizing its human capabilities.

Since 1938, Helmkamp Construction has been dedicated to giving its customers quality construction at a competitive price. The key to Helmkamp's business success is customer satisfaction created through construction quality. Repeat business, the lifeblood of the company, can only be encouraged by giving the client the absolute best end product.

Quality assurance is the responsibility of every employee from the president to the workers in the field. Everyone is part of the team and it takes everyone to get the job done right.

### ***Corporate Philosophy, Company Values and Growth***

Helmkamp Construction Company and all of its employees live by the Corporate Philosophy and Company Values.

**Philosophy:** *Appreciate and treat all people fairly, with courtesy and respect, in order to build our winning team.*

**Values:** *To utilize innovation, reliability, and reputation to complete projects profitably with integrity and in a professional manner.*

Dynegy Midwest Generation;  
Wood River Power Station;  
Drilled Pier

These beliefs and the recent boom in the power generation construction market have contributed to a 40% increase in business. Work put in place fiscal year ending February 28, 2002 was twenty seven million dollars versus nineteen million dollars in 2001.

### **Safety and Quality Focus**

Helmkamp executives have known since the beginning of the company that safety on the jobsite is just as critical as quality materials and processes. The commitment to safety is evidenced by continuous safety education in the field, in the office and by all members of the organization. In fact, over the past three years, the company's average EMR is .7-.8 — a record that speaks for itself.

Helmkamp defines quality as "error-free construction in accordance with design requirements." A simple definition, but not a simple task. The accomplishment of this high standard is

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done through proactive management and testing, observation and critical documentation of construction methods and materials. The company also offers full time professional superintendents on most projects. This method allows clients to manage multiple projects without having to be concerned with every day-to-day detail.

### **Partnering, Alliances and Repeat Customers**

Many of Helmkamp's ongoing clients have come to depend on the key components that are characteristic of all of their projects. Quality, integrity, competitive cost without sacrifices, great safety record...these are just a few. Many partnerships and alliances have been formed over the years with companies such as Ameren, BJC Health

Systems, Dynegy, Jim's Formal Wear, Monsanto, Solutia, Washington University and many more. Additionally, Helmkamp subcontracts with large contractors such as Dearborn, B & W, PMC, ABB, Svedala, Sordoni, Kajima and FruCon. These organizations have staked their reputations on the product they know Helmkamp can deliver.

Helmkamp projects include the PRB coal conversion modifications for Dynegy — formerly Illinois Power; a new administrative office building for Ameren; cardiac cath lab, physical therapy and MRI additions for BJC Health-care; and fraternity house renovations at Washington University. The project variety is large, but the focus remains the same.

In addition to its project work, Helmkamp Construction Company is actively involved in several local and national industry organizations such as AGC, SIBA, East Side Associated Industries, AISE and St. Louis Engineering Club.



Dynegy Midwest Generation; Wood River Power Station:  
PRB & NOX Coal Compliance Project

BJC Health Systems; Alton Memorial Hospital: Cardiac Cath Lab



Ameren; Rush Island Plant: New 20,000  
Square-Foot Administration Building

## History

Some companies start small, but with big dreams. No resources, no expertise, but thinking big is all the fuel that is needed to make that dream a reality. Gilbert Helmkamp had a similar dream and in 1935, at the age of 17, he leased a flatbed truck, used it to haul coal from Livingston and topsoil from the Mississippi Quarry...and his dream became a reality.

In 1938, Gilbert bought his own truck and officially opened business as G. Helmkamp Excavating & Trucking Company. By 1940, he had increased his fleet of trucks to four and signed a long-term contract with Standard Oil. In the following years, the company grew in equipment, personnel, contracts and reputation. Throughout the next two decades this growth continued including the additions of son-in-law, Byron Farrell, and son, John Gilbert Helmkamp, Jr., to really make this dream a family business.

Gilbert's dream for his company was based on a philosophy that has been passed from generation to generation:

"We have a good group of dedicated employees who are the mainstay of our organization. Our employees are the company's greatest asset."

Today, with 150–200 employees working toward the common Helmkamp goal, it is evident that Gilbert's memory lives on in more than one way.

The day-to-day work of Helmkamp Construction may differ dramatically from the original company formed by Gilbert Helmkamp in 1935, but the energy, focus and integrity remains the same. There are many characteristics that a company can pass on through the generations and you can be assured that the education and tradition will stand the test of time...Gilbert wouldn't want it any other way.



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