

Goodrich aims for 1980 plant opening

Bayport facility to employ 200

By MARK TOOHEY
Staff Writer

B.F. Goodrich expects to begin operations at its Bayport facility in 1980 and when it does will employ approximately 200 persons, according to Joe Corona, facilities manager for the proposed plant.

Corona said "no soil has been turned yet", and that he's uncertain when preliminary work will begin at the site, east of Highway 146 in Bayport.

The Texas Air Control Board (ACB) ruled last week that construction permits be issued to

Goodrich for the proposed \$100 million chlorine facility.

Board members voted seven to two that construction permits be issued, but stipulated Goodrich should monitor ethylene dichloride

and chlorine emissions in the area surrounding the proposed plant site.

Several Bay Area environmental groups and cities, including Seabrook and El Lago, opposed to construction of the plant, where parties to a five week public hearing, which concluded March 7 in Seabrook.

"We're scheduled to begin operations at the plant in the first or second quarter of 1980. We will employ 200 persons in operations only," Corona said.

He estimated nearly \$12 million will begin to flow through area coffers when production begins.

"It (the plant) will be a tremendous economic shot in the arm for the community," Corona added.

According to Corona, plant of-

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Officials will be prepared for any type of chemical spill and the location of the plant protects it from any natural disasters.

"We'll have an emergency neutralization tank and we can shut down manufacturing with the push of a button," he said.

"The building and equipment will be 20 feet above sea level and the plant is protected against winds up to 125 miles an hour," Corona added.

Goodrich has gone far beyond its requirements and officials feel they are perfectly within their rights to locate in the Bayport area, according to Corona.

"But we're sensitive to the concerns of area residents," he added.

Meanwhile, Clark Thompson, an attorney representing the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association (GBCPA) one of the parties opposed to issuance of the permit, said his group will appeal last week's decision to a district court in Austin.

First, Thompson said the GBCPA will file a motion with the TACB for a re-hearing.

"I don't have any hope they (the board) will do anything (about the re-hearing motion). It's a useless step, but it's jurisdictional and we can't appeal without it," he said.

"After that we hope the district court will either deny the permit or send it back to the board," Thompson added.

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