



Ground broken for SNF Flopam plant in Iberville

New Plaquemine facility to employ about 500 people, 100 contract workers

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PLAQUEMINE — State and local officials and employees of SNF Flopam held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday for the French chemical company's \$362 million manufacturing facility just south of the Georgia Gulf and Shintech plants on River Road.

SNF announced its plan last year to build the Plaquemine

plant, which will make water-soluble polymer that flushes oil out of recovery wells. It will be built in five phases through 2015. When completed, it will employ 500 people directly and 100 permanent contract workers.

The project is expected to create 250 construction jobs and a total of 1,400 jobs after ripple-effect job creation is factored in.

The first unit will begin operating in the third quarter of 2011. Site manager Brian Soucy of Global Environmental Solutions said the plant will occupy 150 acres on the 800-acre site.

Gov. Bobby Jindal took the occasion to tell the media, local officials and dozens of SNF employees on hand that the company's decision to locate in Iberville Parish is a testament to the state's resiliency.

He said it, along with economic development success stories such as Albemarle, Trace Securities and Electronic Arts, are proof that the state has

rebounded from hurricanes Katrina and Rita and will weather the Gulf oil leak as well.

An economic impact study by LSU estimates the facility will add \$3.7 billion to the state's economic output through 2025.

Peter Nichols, president of SNF Holding Co., said that while the proximity of raw materials and the support of state and local governments were important factors in choosing Louisiana and Iberville Parish, the main factor was the quality of the labor pool and the state's commitment to work force training.

Nichols said the Plaquemine facility's product will allow the company to compete in markets that stretch from Alaska to South America, the Middle East and China.

The plant, as Nichols put it, is SNF's largest greenfield investment.

Jindal pledged that the state "will prove to you that this is the best decision you ever made." Nichols said SNF is committed to being environmentally responsible.

"I can assure you we will not abuse the trust you have put in us," he said.