



southern carolina

regional development alliance

REGION NEWS

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Grant Under Construction in Fairfax

Allendale County and the SouthernCarolina Alliance Region welcomed Grant Forest Products to the area in late 2005.

The world's largest OSB manufacturing facility is being constructed on a 480 acre site located just north of Fairfax in Allendale County. The sprawling complex will have more than 411,000 square feet of buildings occupied by manufacturing, administrative, and support activities.

When completed, the Grant facility will represent over \$225 million of capital investment, by far the largest single capital investment in Allendale County history, and

the largest single investment in South Carolina in 2005!

The facility will provide over 120 direct production jobs, 25 senior level positions, and more than 300 support positions created through employment in wood harvesting, product transportation, and outside services contracting.

The operation will consume more than 1.5 million tons of raw product per year, requiring up to 165 truckloads of round wood per day. When completed, Grant Forest Products will begin construction on a similar facility in Clarendon County, making Grant's total investment in South Carolina more than \$400 million!



SCA Participates in MOX Fuel Site Groundbreaking

Members of SouthernCarolina Alliance participated in the Site Preparation Ceremony on Friday, October 14, for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at DOE's Savannah River Site.

SCA Vice Chairman David Cannon and CEO Danny Black joined Representative Lonnie Hosey, SCA Board Member James Pinkney, SCA Project Manager Bill Robinson, Mayor Tommy Rivers, and SCA Advisory Board Members Dan Cannady, Art Williams, and Freddie Houston for the ceremonies, where Ambassador Linton Brooks, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration addressed the delegation of industry and government leaders. U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim Demint, S.C. Congressman Gresham Barrett and Georgia Congressman Charlie Norwood and a representative from Congressman Joe Wilson's office participated in the program.

The United States and Russia signed the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement in September of 2000, which com-

mits each country to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapon-grade plutonium. To dispose of the plutonium, it will be fabricated into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for use in existing nuclear reactors. After the MOX fuel has been irradiated, the plutonium can no longer be used for nuclear weapons.

The National Nuclear Security Administration will construct and operate two facilities: a Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF), which will disassemble nuclear weapons components and convert the resulting plutonium metal to oxide; and a MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, which will fabricate the plutonium oxide from the weapons to MOX fuel

suitable for use in commercial nuclear reactors. Both the PDCF and the MOX facility will be built at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.



Mayor Rivers of the Town of Williston (3rd from left), Freddie Houston of Barnwell County Council (middle), Bill Robinson, Allendale County Councilman and SCA Project Manager (3rd from right), James L. Pinkney, Chairman of Allendale County Council (Second from Right), and Sterling Franks, U.S. Department of Energy, NNSA Manager- Savannah River Site (far right), and Ernie Chapat with Aiken-Edgefield Economic Development Partnership (Second from left) at the official groundbreaking of the MOX Fuel Facility

Alliance Has Record Number of Participants for Industry Appreciation Week

Maybank Addresses Industry Leaders

Carl Gooding, Chairman of SouthernCarolina Alliance, served as master of ceremonies at the 2005 Industry Appreciation Week Dinner at Sweetwater Country Club on Thursday, September 22, where over 200 industry and community leaders from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties met to hear guest speaker, Burnie Maybank, Director of the S.C. Department of Revenue. The event was the highlight of the the regional Industry Appreciation Week, which is co-sponsored by the Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Economic Development Commissions in cooperation with SouthernCarolina Alliance.

Maybank, who has served as an advisor to several governors during his public service career, spoke about business and

tax incentives to a crowd who had participated in an Existing Industry Program seminar in the morning, golf in the afternoon, and dinner by Carolina Barbecue.

"We had 28 teams participate in our golf tournament celebrating Industry Appreciation Week, which is a record number of participants for our annual event," said Danny Black, President and CEO of SouthernCarolina Alliance. "We were delighted with the turnout, which shows our area's commitment to promoting industry and fostering regionalism among our four counties."

The winners of the tournament, cajoled by Chairman Carl Gooding, donated their prize winnings to Hurricane Katrina assistance efforts.

Taking first place were Bobby Thomas, Dave Hepner, Von Bolin, and



SCA Chairman Carl Gooding presents a check for \$1,050 to Rev. Billy Mew of the Barnwell-Bamberg Baptist Association for hurricane relief efforts. The money was donated by the winning golfers in SCA's Industry Appreciation Week Golf Tournament.

Josh Mott. Second place winners were Johnny George, Gene Schwarting, and Jerry Freidner. Third place winners were Lee Maxwell, Robbie Wilson, and Thomas Zeigler. The fourth place team was led by Chairman Carl Gooding and included Senator Brad Hutto, Maceo Nance of the S.C. Department of Commerce, and Marty Patton. Bamberg attorney Chris Wilson won the award for Straightest Drive. Altogether, the golfers donated \$1,050 to the hurricane survivors assistance effort.

Alliance Markets Buildings and Sites in All Four Counties

Allendale Building Completed

Promotional or "spec" buildings are key marketing tools in recruiting prospective industry to the SouthernCarolina region. The Allendale promotional building has recently been completed and joins the inventory of "ready to finish" buildings and sites at our industrial parks.

A cooperative effort by the S.C. Department of Commerce and their office of Rural Development, the Department of Energy, BellSouth, Lower Savannah Council of

Governments, Savannah River ReUse Organization, Allendale County, and SCA, the Allendale Promotional Building stands as a realization of collaborative achievement and as a symbol of future regional success and potential. The Alliance looks forward to holding a ribbon cutting ceremony in the first quarter of 2006 to thank the organizations and individuals involved in developing the Allendale building, which is now being marketed to prospective industry.



Allendale Promotional Building

Maxwell Joins Alliance



SouthernCarolina Alliance welcomes Kay W. Maxwell, who joined the Alliance in August 2005 as our Marketing and Special Projects Manager. A resident of Bamberg, Kay has worked in public relations and political consulting for the last twenty years.

An active member of her community, Kay has worked with numerous civic organizations on regional and community issues since she moved to the area six years ago with her husband, Ronny, who grew up in Bamberg. Kay now works at the SCA office, located in the SCAT Park at 1321 Technology Drive in Barnwell. She can be reached at the office at (803)541-0023 or by email at kmaxwell@barnwellsc.com.



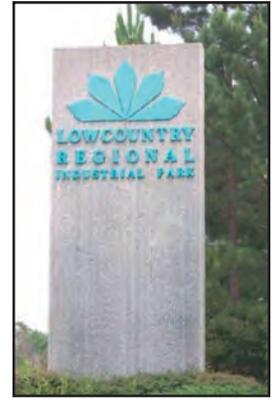
Eight Industrial Parks “Certified” in 2005



Pointe Salkehatchie Regional Industrial Park
Allendale County

All member counties within the Alliance Region now have “certified” industrial parks or sites. The certification of these parks was funded by the S.C. Department of Commerce’s Division of Community & Rural Development and certified by Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.

“Certified” means these sites are “construction ready” for industrial prospects. Having construction ready sites reduces start up time and costs for new industry, providing the regional marketing team with key advantages for recruitment.



Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park
Hampton County



South Carolina Advanced Technology Park



Blackville Industrial Park and Technology Center
Barnwell County



CrossRhodes Regional Industrial Park
Bamberg County

Regional Industrial Council Plans Existing Industry Program for 2006

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) of the Regional Industrial Council has completed their agenda for 2006 and will implement their program in early February.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee are: Scott Abernathy, Plant Manager of Mohawk Industries in Allendale County, who serves as President of the committee; Jim Latham, Plant Manager of Chem-Nuclear; Welton Oxendine, Plant Manager of Sara Lee in Barnwell;

Lynette Harley, Manager of the S.C. Employment Security Commission’s Hampton Office; and SouthernCarolina’s local developers.

The Regional Industrial Council will continue their quarterly programs for 2006 with all meetings held in Allendale at the USC-Salkehatchie campus, to make meetings more convenient for attendees. The council will include an “Industrial Focus” as part of their quarterly programs, with a regional industry giving an update on their products,

services and general business outlook at each quarterly meeting. Program topics for 2006 include the S.C. Employment Security Commission’s Employer Council, the S.C. Department of Commerce’s New Existing Industry Program, SouthernCarolina Alliance’s initiatives, and Workforce Training. For more information on the Regional Industrial Council’s Existing Industry Programs for 2006, contact Bill Robinson at (803)541-1531 or at (803)584-2700.

SCA Promotes Becky Beyer and Bill Robinson

On January 10, SouthernCarolina Alliance announced several organization personnel changes. Bill Robinson, SCA Project Manager for Allendale, has been promoted to Director of Economic Development for Allendale County, responsible for all SCA related activities and programs concerning Economic and Community development within Allendale County.

Becky Beyer, SCA Executive

Assistant, has been promoted to SCA Office Manager, responsible for all administrative, financial, and compliance aspects of the organization, reporting to the SCA President.

“We appreciate the dedicated work performed by these individuals and wish them much success in their added responsibilities,” said SCA President and CEO Danny Black.



Bill Robinson
Allendale County Director
of Economic Development



Becky Beyer
SCA Office Manager

**Congratulations to Bill and Becky
on their promotions!**

Message from The Chairman

By Carl Gooding, Chairman
SouthernCarolina Alliance
Board of Directors



It has been an honor to serve as your Chairman during this most successful year. What an exciting time to be part of the Alliance! Our region is experiencing record-breaking success in economic development with capital investment and job creation in all four counties.

In June, Grant Forest Products announced their intent to build a \$225 million plant in Allendale County. The announcement was the result of months of cooperative effort among the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board and staff, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the Governor's Office, our local elected officials, the government of Allendale County, and the leaders of our entire region.

Over the following months, the people of Bamberg, Barnwell, Hampton, and Allendale Counties pulled together again as the announcement became reality as Grant Forest Products began construction on the announced plant.

Now we're seeing new faces in the region as employees of Grant Forest Products and WABI Construction Company are moving into our neighborhoods and becoming part of the local community. They join the many residents of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties who are either getting jobs at the new site or doing business with those who are. Businesses as varied as car dealerships, supply companies, hotels and inns, restaurants, furniture companies, trucking companies, real estate agencies, hairdressers, doctor's offices and homebuilders from all four counties have been doing business with these new companies or their employees.

The Grant Allendale plant is but one example of what the power of regionalism can bring to our part of South Carolina. We are seeing progress with job creation from our existing industry, and we are recruiting new industry throughout the SouthernCarolina Alliance area. I urge you to get involved today in supporting the Alliance's efforts to create jobs for our region to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

I look forward to working with you for many years to come to make this the best place in the world to live and work.

2005 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXPANSIONS REPORT

In June of 2005, Grant Forest Products of Canada announced their intent to invest more than \$200 million and provide 120 high paying jobs by building an oriented strand board (OSB) manufacturing plant in Allendale County. Grant has begun construction at the 480-acre site near the town of Fairfax, and the plant will be completed in 2006. Average salaries at the new plant have been projected to be \$35,000 to \$40,000.



The Grant Allendale, Inc., Site near Fairfax

- Birdsong Peanuts' Fairfax operations expanded their presence in the region by adding 70,000 square feet of warehouse space, and Birdsong increased their seasonal number of employees from 12 to 20 this year. The warehouse was the result of an increase in the number of contracted farmers in the region and the anticipated increased yield. The new addition has the capacity to house up to 12,000 tons of peanuts.



Birdsong Peanuts in Allendale County

- Climax Global Energy signed a five-year lease-purchase agreement with Allendale County for the former Kodiak facility in February 2005. The agreement specified that Climax would remove and sell the excess equipment and use the proceeds to up-fit the building to

support their process. Equipment removal was completed in April and the pilot plant installation began in early June. Currently, the pilot plant is about 90% complete and should begin operation by April 2006. Climax Global Energy expects employment to peak at 30 in the first year.



Climax Global Energy

- Mohawk Industries in Ulmer added 12 additional jobs in 2005.
- Collum Lumber in Allendale has a capital expansion of \$7 million in progress.
- At Scotsman in Fairfax, employment is expected to increase by 10 or more in 2006 because of increased sales. Capital expansion will be several million dollars worth due to changes in product lines and redesigns.
- Appalachian Engineered Floors, Inc., Fairfax operations' current employment is at 45, with an increase of up to 15 planned during 2006; most job increases will be in production. Some capital expansion is anticipated.
- Carolina Southern Funeral Supply Company just completed their first year of operation in Bamberg. Located in the old USA Building on Main Street, Carolina Southern Funeral Supply Company manufactures and supplies a variety of funeral products, including tent frames, canvas tops, chair covers, cot covers, chair transportation bags, and funeral grass. Currently CSFSC employees 4 and had sales in excess of \$250,000 in their inaugural year. The company plans to add several new positions in 2006.



Carolina Southern Funeral Supply Company in Bamberg

- NIBCO in Denmark added 8 permanent positions and 25 temporary positions in 2005. NIBCO also received the Voluntary Protection Program Participants STAR Award from the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA). Out of 100,000 potentials, NIBCO is the 51st to receive the STAR award in South Carolina and the first company in Bamberg County to receive the award.

- International Plastics Co., located in Bamberg County, added 3 new positions in 2005 and invested over \$40,000 in capital improvement.

- Kears Manufacturing in Olar plans to add 10 new jobs in 2006 and had over \$200,000 capital improvement this year.

- Tobul Industries in Bamberg increased employment by 5 positions in 2005 and had \$200,000 in capital improvements. Capital improvements of at least \$150,000 are planned for 2006, and 3-5 positions will be added.

- Road Guard, a 2005 start up in Denmark, invested \$400,000 and employs 5 at their auto accessory production plant, where they manufacture mud flaps, floor mats, and other rubber made products. Road Guard plans to add 6 additional employees in 2006.



Road Guard, an auto accessory manufacturing plant located in Denmark

- Goodrich Delevan in Bamberg County added 12 new employees in 2005.

- The largest employer in the four-county region, Dixie-Narco, invested over \$1 million in its Williston facility in 2005. Company President Doug Huffer predicted more investment for the coming year with additional jobs added early in 2006.

- Excel Comfort Systems, located in Blackville, achieved record employment levels in 2005 with over 300 temporary positions added, and a significant number of these positions will carry over into or be re-established in 2006. In addition, 40 to 50 additional core positions will have been added by year-end. There has been significant capital investment in 2005 focused on capacity expansion, new product designs, productivity improvements and facility improvements.

- Augusta Fiberglass in Barnwell County has added over 50 jobs in 2005 and expects this trend to continue into 2006. They have also made significant capital investments to their existing plant facilities.

- Dayco invested over \$4 million in its Williston plant in 2005.

- Le Creuset in Yemassee added 5 jobs this year, with plans to add more in 2006.

- CMT of Estill in Hampton County added 30 jobs this year and invested \$2.5 million in expansion. They have plans to add 20 jobs with an additional expansion in 2006.

- Nevamar in Hampton added 4 positions in 2005, and had capital expenditures totaling \$700,000 in 2005, with plans for \$1.3 million in 2006.

2005 Total Amount of New Investment:
Over \$225 Million

Total Amount of Expansion in 2005:
More Than \$18 Million

Total Number of New Jobs in 2005:
351

SCA Continues Strong Marketing and Recruitment Efforts

By Danny Black, CEO
SouthernCarolina Alliance



2005 has been a banner year for the region with over \$225,000,000 in new investment and more than \$18,000,000 in expansions announced this year. We would like to congratulate our existing industries on their successes this year, and we welcome Grant Forest Products of Canada as our newest member of the wood products industrial cluster. SouthernCarolina Alliance continues our efforts to identify and recruit industry to Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties through a targeted marketing program to engage expanding companies in our corresponding industrial clusters.

To date, SCA has completed successful marketing missions to more than 70 industries and site consultants in 14 states. The Alliance also recently completed a marketing mission to 7 industries located in Canada. In addition, SCA has recruited prospects to our region throughout the year to market our industrial sites and resources.

In 2005, we have increased both the quality and number of targeted leads. SCA continues to evaluate and improve our marketing efforts with the assistance of the best marketing professionals and site consultants available and with support provided by the S.C. Department of Commerce and our local business community and elected officials.

Because economic development is a long-term planning and implementation process to improve the quality of life for our citizens through job creation, we continue to endeavor to deliver results for our region through focused research, planning, marketing, and execution.

As SCA prepares to celebrate ten years of regional cooperation and effort, we are now realizing the accomplishments our alliance has produced and the level of success we can achieve through regionalism in the coming years. With announcements and expansions in the region, 2006 promises to be another successful year for the Alliance.

County Leaders Launch Effort Against Litter Alliance Task Force Says Beauty of Region Critical to Industry Recruitment

Leaders from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties have launched a regional cooperative effort to fight litter through the Southern Carolina Alliance's Anti-Litter Task Force campaign.

"As business and community leaders, we have found that litter can be a deterrent to recruiting new industry to the area," said Hampton County Councilwoman Peggy Parker, who chairs the task force. "In our regional meetings, it's an issue that came up time and again as one that needs to be addressed. When prospective business owners are looking at our region as a place to locate their homes and businesses, they notice our highways and neighborhoods. It's important to keep our communities clean and present our counties as a wonderful place to work and live, as it truly is."

According to Parker, the Alliance is launching a litter awareness campaign, in cooperation with the local newspapers and radio stations in the four counties. The group plans to run public service announcements to highlight South Carolina's litter laws.

"We will address the issue of litter in a positive way," said Parker. "However, we believe in accountability, and we are working with the local governments and looking at the reports detailing those who have broken our state litter laws. We will be examining methods of raising the awareness in our community in this regard."

The Southern Carolina Alliance Anti-Litter Task Force is comprised of leaders from each of the four counties: Chairwoman Peggy Parker, Hampton; Art Williams, Allendale; Rev. Isaiah Odom, Bamberg; and Pickens Williams, Barnwell.

DHEC Holds Public Hearing on Grant Allendale Plant Approves Air Quality Permit for Construction

The Fairfax Hut was filled to capacity for the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) public hearing held August 25 on the Grant Forest Product facility in Allendale County. Citizens and elected officials from all four counties in the Southern Carolina Alliance region attended, and several spoke on behalf of the new OSB plant.

Air emissions in South Carolina are regulated by the Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) at DHEC. To maintain air pollution laws and regulations, the BAQ has a permitting system for industrial and commercial facilities in S.C. that emit pollutants into the ambient air. Any company planning to construct this type

of facility must first obtain a construction permit from the BAQ.

The response from the residents of the Southern Carolina region was overwhelmingly positive, and Scott Pearson, Engineering Vice President of Grant Allendale, Inc., thanked the crowd for their support.

Representatives from county councils spoke unanimously in favor of the plant. SCA Board members and staff were on hand to support Grant Allendale, Inc., at the hearing.

DHEC approved and issued the permit for Grant Allendale, Inc., on September 12, 2005, and sent letters thanking all of those who attended the hearing for participating in the process.



Audience at the DHEC hearing on the Grant Allendale Plant.

Railroad Service Returns To Barnwell County

For the first time in more than 17 years, rail service has returned to Barnwell County as Kronotex receives and ships materials via rail service. The CSX train has become a regular site at the S.C. Advanced Technology Park as it travels across the site to the Kronotex facility. Kronotex is currently receiving 12 carloads per week and expects their shipping to increase in the near future.



Local Leaders Recognized As Economic Ambassadors

S.C. Economic Ambassadors from the forty-six counties were honored by Governor Mark Sanford on September 19 at the 2005 S.C. Economic Ambassadors Luncheon and Ceremonies at the Governor's Mansion during Industry Appreciation Week. The Ambassadors for Economic Development are private sector executives who have made exceptional contributions to community and state development during 2004-05.



C. Wesley Ulmer, Jr. of Birdsong Peanuts was recognized for his work to help improve the quality of life through economic development in Allendale County. The Birdsong operation in Fairfax has seen steady success under his leadership and further growth is expected. Under Ulmer's management, the number of seasonal jobs has increased from five to 20. At the beginning of 2005, Birdsong began construction of a 7,000-square-foot warehouse on its 36-acre site north of Fairfax. The economic benefits of his work have helped his customers gain access to a convenient, modern regional facility that cuts costs and time.

Walter E. "Pete" Brooker of Brooker's Hardware was named the S.C. Economic Ambassador from Bamberg County. Mr. Brooker was instrumental in the growth and posi-

tive change in Bamberg County over recent years. He has served



on key county and regional committees to steer Bamberg County's efforts in constructing certified industrial parks and in implementing effective programs to promote Bamberg County as a choice for industrial development.

William L. Roberson & Janet L. Roberson of National Beverage Screen Printers Inc. were recognized for their work to stimulate economic development in Barnwell County. Over the last 14 years, the couple has been a model for how



the Barnwell County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) and prospective industry work together to create successful industries. Their family-owned vending machine parts manufacturing company moved from South Florida to South Carolina in 1990 after partnering with BCEDC to build its manufacturing facility. The Robersons have been willing to show their facil-

ity to visitors, prospective companies and others to promote the qualified and dedicated workforce they have found in Barnwell County. Moreover, the couple has made continual capital investments to its facility. As a result, NBS has one of the most automated operations in the county, providing higher-wage, higher-skill jobs.

Tom Allen of Sprint was honored for his dedication to economic development initiatives in Hampton County. Allen has been a strong



advocate and supporter of Hampton County's economic development efforts over several years. In the past he has secured funding for work at the Estill Industrial Park and most recently secured \$50,000 for the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park. He has also encouraged Sprint to provide funds for other key economic development projects. In addition, Allen has provided the Hampton County Economic Development Commission with much-needed equipment. He has also worked with the Commission to address communications needs, such as telephone and Internet, for companies that are considering a Hampton County location.

SouthernCarolina Alliance congratulates our region's leaders on being named S.C. Ambassadors for Economic Development!

Six Counties Hold Homeland Security Exercise At SCAT Park

Midlands First Responders Test Terrorism Response

Emergency management personnel and first responders from the Midlands had an opportunity to test their ability to respond to simulated weapons of mass destruction (WMD) events on October 27, 2005, at the S.C. Advanced Technology Park in Snelling. Southern Carolina Alliance hosted the Homeland Security Exercise, which began early in the morning and included local volunteers whose role-playing included being injured and taken hostage.

First responders and equipment from Aiken, Barnwell, Kershaw, Richland, Lexington and Saluda

counties deployed to simulated terrorist incident locations to test their plans, procedures and equipment. The response teams included several local and state level Rapid Response Teams. These are highly trained and equipped to enter a suspect area, evaluate dangers, offer initial aid and render incident scenes safe for both responders and victims.

More than 500 individuals participated in the exercise to evaluate emergency planning and procedures used by government at all levels during the response to a Weapons of Mass Destruction or

mass casualty event. Several members of the local press corps and a delegation of observers watched from a designated observation point as hostage negotiation, decontamination procedures, and diving exercises took place.

“We had a lot of excitement out here at the SCAT Park that day,” said SCA CEO Danny Black. “We simply had the perfect facility to conduct such a simulation, and we look forward to developing a continued working relationship with these officials in both the private and law enforcement sectors in homeland security training.”

Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance

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