

PCS to invest in Lima facility, add jobs

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LIMA — Seven jobs and \$26 million.

That's how much PCS Nitrogen will invest in its Lima location and how many people it will add during the next few years.

Allen County commissioners agreed to a 10-year enterprise zone agreement to give the company a 50 percent cut on real property taxes.

Plant Manager Todd Sutton said the investment will help PCS "right size" its operations. In addition to the seven full-time jobs, many temporary jobs will be created to make the improvements at the plant, Sutton said.

"It's an investment that secures the future of this company in Allen County for a long time," said Allen Economic Development Group President Marcel Wagner.

Sutton agreed.

"It will help improve our infrastructure to hopefully maintain the plant for a long time," he said.

He said about 41 percent of money spent on maintenance stays in the local area, boosting other businesses as well.

PCS assumed operation of the plant from a contractor in 2008 and now wants to bring the facility in line with its business plan. The \$26 million will go toward building improvements, new construction and process equipment, Sutton said.

The new construction includes facilities, administration buildings, labs and control houses. Some employees will be hired in the next year, he said, with all seven added in two to three years.

The 54-year-old facility produces ammonia, urea, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate used in fertilizer and animal feed and for industrial applications.