

Infrastructure Upgrade Drives Expansion in Food Processing Industry

2016

Project: Existing industry is planning a \$4.5million 50,000 SF distribution warehouse to store peanut butter based therapeutic food that not only supports their growth yet complements one of their suppliers who is also an existing employer in the community.

Problem: Initial testing of the municipal water line in this portion of the industrial park shows water line will not provide adequate volume of water to supply the new ESFR fire suppression resulting in the company contacting the Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority for assistance in solving an issue that puts the project in peril.

Solution: Upon the Development Authority meeting with the company's general contractor and sprinkler contractor, it was determined that a 100,000 gallon above ground water tank with pump was the most cost effective solution. The cost is estimated at \$300,000.

Course of Action: Within 30 days of receiving the cost estimate of the tank and pump, the Development Authority board approves the construction of a 150,000 gallon above ground water tank and pump that will service the existing expansion and future growth of existing employer and future opportunities. The project moved forward with no further issues.

Outcome: The installation of the tank and pump not only influenced the completion of the 50,000 SF warehouse, yet it was also influential in the community winning a \$12Million expansion project from the complementary food processing company previously mentioned. To date, the community attributes an additional \$30,000/yr in property taxes from each of these expansions and by the end of 2020 will see the user of the tank and pump invest another \$5Million in their Fitzgerald facility.