



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

State Capitol – Room 434
201 West Capital Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Phone: (573) 751-7852

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SENATOR SHOEMYER ANNOUNCES CDBG GRANT FOR BRICK PLANT IN MEXICO

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today announced that Mid-America Brick LLC has received a \$1-million Action Fund Loan from the Community Development Block Grant program to redevelop the former A.P. Green Refractories plant in Mexico. The loan will help pay for machinery and equipment and provide working capital for the new plant. The \$20.5-million project will include \$12-million in capital improvements to the factory and is projected to create 74 new jobs once the facility is fully operational. Mid-America Brick will manufacture face brick used in residential and commercial construction projects.

Mid-America Brick CEO and President Frank Cordie says renovation work will begin as soon the project receives approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and his attorneys close on the deal.

“You hear them talk about projects being shovel ready – well this one is definitely ready to go,” Cordie said. “We’ll have 74 people employed at the plant once it’s up and running, but we also plan to hire subcontractors to help us with things such as mining and transportation.”

Cordie says he anticipates the brick manufacturing plant will be fully operational in a couple of years. He hopes workers can begin rehabilitating the manufacturing plant by the end of August.

The Mexico City Council applied for the CDBG Action Fund Loan following a public hearing in April.

Sen. Shoemyer says the plant will provide a needed boost to the Mexico economy.

“Mexico, like a lot of our small towns, has been struggling to cope with job losses in recent years, and the economic crash that started late last year has only made things much worse,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “I applaud the Mexico City Council for working with Mr. Cordie and others to make this brick manufacturing plant a reality. So much of our country’s manufacturing capacity has been shipped overseas, so it’s nice when we can start making things here again. I’m also glad that the plant that built Mexico is getting some new life breathed into it.”

In 1910, an engineer named Allen P. Green bought the Mexico Brick and Fire Clay Company. A.P Green Fire Brick Company was incorporated in 1915, and by 1937 it had become "the world's largest fireclay plant." A.P. Green Refractories closed in April of 2002.

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