



Ms. Laurie Gharis Chief Clerk (MC 105)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78753

Transmitted via email
laurie.gharis@tceq.texas.gov

RE: Request of Linde Inc. for Approval to Construct a Wastewater Treatment Plant
Pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 26.027(c)

Dear Ms. Gharis,

Please find a request by Linde Inc. (Linde) for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approval to construct an industrial wastewater treatment plant pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 26.027(c). The request is for a new industrial wastewater treatment plant supporting the Linde Blue Hydrogen Project in Nederland, Jefferson County, Texas. Linde will build, own, and operate a world-scale facility employing autothermal reforming technology with carbon capture, plus a large air separation plant to supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to Linde's client's nearby 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia plant. Linde's new facility will also provide the ability for Linde to expand the capacity of Linde's existing extensive pipeline network, enabling the transition to a low-carbon-intensity economy, contributing to Texas' objectives of building a clean energy hub. The Linde project will have a positive economic benefit to the Jefferson County and associated local economic benefits to the Beaumont area and surrounding communities. The construction activity of Linde's new facility will generate economic input into the area's economy through direct, indirect, and induced construction jobs and salaries, and sales tax revenues for both city and county. Long term economic benefits to the Jefferson County area will be realized through the creation of permanent direct and indirect jobs, estimated new family residences and residential properties in the county, and the increase in taxable sales and purchases associated with the injection of the aforementioned economic benefits. An application for a new Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit to authorize discharges from the facility has been submitted to the agency, however the Project timeline for construction of the wastewater plant will likely precede issuance of the TPDES permit. Project specific schedules and details related to the complexities associated with the wastewater treatment plant construction are described herein.

Linde acknowledges the weight of decisions made by the Commission to provide an approval to construct a wastewater treatment plant ahead of the issuance of the TPDES permit and is prepared to accept financial responsibility for construction impacts related to future issuance of the TPDES permit and permit limits that may be inconsistent with Linde's expected conditions in a future permit. Linde also understands that an approval to construct only authorizes the construction of the facility and does not guarantee that TCEQ will issue a TPDES Permit for the facility.



Linde is grateful to the Commission for consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Heather McCormick, Linde LGUS Environmental Manager, at (337) 287-3355 or via email at Heather.McCormick@Linde.com.

Sincerely,

Linde Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Salerno", written over a horizontal line.

Todd Salerno, Linde Executive Director HyCO Operations

Attachment: Request for Approval to Construct for Linde Inc. Pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 26.0027 (c)

CC: Todd Galiga, TCEQ, Senior Attorney, Environmental Law Division
Cari-Michel la Caille, TCEQ, Director, Office of Water
Robert Sadlier, TCEQ, Deputy Director, Water Quality Division
Matthew Udenenwu, TCEQ, Manager, Wastewater Permits Section
Alyssa Loveday, TCEQ, Team Leader, Industrial Permits
Jeff Saitas, Saitas and Seales
Holly Fults, Bums & McDonnell



**Linde Inc. Request for Approval to Construct Wastewater Facilities
Pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 26.027(c)
Nederland Blue Hydrogen Facility**

Linde Inc. (CN605425180) applied for a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit (WQ0005439000) to authorize the discharge of treated industrial wastewater generated by the production of hydrogen at the Nederland Blue Hydrogen Facility (Facility) in Jefferson County Texas on September 8, 2023. The application has been declared administratively complete and is undergoing technical review. Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain a Water Quality Permit was mailed on October 26, 2023. No comments have been received as of this filing. The construction of the wastewater treatment facilities at the Facility will be an integral component of the overall greenfield construction project, with commencement of early works including pre-construction pilings and foundations scheduled for first quarter 2024, followed by civil construction of wastewater components and ultimately the wastewater treatment units by second quarter 2024. Linde Inc. hereby requests the TCEQ Commissioners consider and approve construction of the wastewater treatment facility and associated components pursuant to the Texas Water Code (TWC) Section 26.027(c) by February, 2024, in advance of the issuance of the TPDES Permit for the Project.

Linde acknowledges that, if issued, an ATC by the Commissioners does not provide Linde an assurance that the TCEQ will issue a TPDES permit authorizing discharge of effluent from the proposed facility. Linde accepts that any construction activities conducted by Linde as a result of the ATC issuance is at Linde's risk and all financial responsibility for the construction of the facility is held solely by Linde. Linde also understands that issuance of an ATC does not authorize the discharge of effluent from the proposed facility.

Linde's \$1.8 billion investment not only supports the local economy, but also provides low-carbon industrial gases to chemical manufactures such as the adjacent facility and off-taker OCI. This feedstock will supply OCI's new world-scale blue ammonia plant. Linde's Project design includes an agreement with ExxonMobil for the sequestration of more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions to supply OCI with clean hydrogen feed. Clean hydrogen will also be distributed throughout Linde's extensive pipeline network to new customers in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, fulfilling requests from customers for options to decarbonize their operations.

The proposed Project includes the construction of two hydrogen production trains, one air separation unit, the carbon dioxide removal system and supporting utilities. It will produce approximately 300,000 tons per year of purified hydrogen. The project's total installed cost is expected to be \$1.8 billion, and the project is expected to generate an estimated \$75 million of tax benefits for the local Jefferson County area over the first 15 years of the project. Additionally, the project's development and construction activity will inject an estimated \$2.3 billion into the local area's economy by supporting 1,574 direct, indirect, and induced construction jobs during construction, and will generate an estimated \$389 million in direct, indirect and induced construction salaries for area workers. The construction



activity will also generate an estimated \$726 thousand in sales tax revenues to the City of Beaumont and Jefferson County. See the referenced articles and press releases provided in Linde's attachment package.

Construction activities for Linde's facility will start in late 2023. Civil, mechanical, and electrical construction activities and contractors have been carefully sequenced to meet Linde's obligations to supply product critical to Linde's client by August 2025. Without the successful commissioning and startup of Linde's wastewater treatment plant within Linde's facility, Linde will be unable to commence with facility startup activities which directly impacts Linde's client's ability to startup their blue ammonia plant. The wastewater treatment plant within Linde's facility is expected to require a three-to-four-month duration to commission the sensitive biological treatment system units. With commissioning activities starting in the 1st quarter of 2025 and required to be completed for startup in the 3rd quarter of 2025, the sequence of construction milestones starting with piling associated with the wastewater treatment unit are crucial to the success of the project. The piles for the wastewater treatment unit are required to start their installation in February 2024 in order to maintain required installation durations for subsequent component installations such as; wastewater treatment area foundation (May 2024), wastewater treatment area feeding mechanical and electrical sub-systems (June 2024), wastewater treatment unit equipment, tanks, interconnecting piping, electrical, instrumentation components (August 2024), with overall mechanical completion of the wastewater treatment system by February 2025. Linde has contracted a 3rd party specialty firm to supply, install and commission the wastewater system and components, requiring complex coordination and sequencing of the firm's activities, and a commitment by Linde to achieve milestones necessary for their execution.

The Linde Facility will produce process wastewater, utility wastewater and potentially contaminated stormwater at an expected daily average rate of 1.67 million gallons per day. Wastewater treatment facilities designed for the facility include a system of collection sumps and piping located throughout the Facility plot, wastewater storage/equalization tanks, and conventional biological treatment system units. Construction and proper commissioning of all wastewater components requires complex coordination of multiple construction teams.

Linde requests the ATC be approved for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities by February 2024, to provide adequate time to inform and organize Linde's construction contractor. This date is anticipated to precede an approval of the pending TPDES application.

The rationale for this request includes:

Facility startup and operations depend on the wastewater treatment facility to be properly commissioned and functional. The execution schedule for wastewater treatment facilities includes the following components.

Pilings. February 2024

Foundations. May 2024

Field installation of wastewater treatment system and sub-systems. June 2024 – January 2025

Mechanical completion. February 2025



Pre-commissioning. March 2025

Startup. June 2025

Processing wastewater. July 2025

Without approval to begin construction related activities for the wastewater treatment facility and associated components, delays of the startup and production at the Linde Facility would impact both the proposed Linde operation and the OCI production of blue ammonia. A timely completion of the overall Facility construction and startup of production at both facilities will be critical for continued investment in the local community and could impact procurement and employment for the projects.

Complex execution of a multi-component wastewater collection and treatment system requires the coordination of specialty construction craft workers. Delays to the construction of in-unit sumps and piping will delay other construction progress and ultimately disrupt schedules for other site construction activities.

Linde has considered and investigated options for the indirect discharge of Facility wastewater at a local publicly owned treatment works. Although hydraulic treatment capacity exists, the Linde wastewater streams would still require construction of wastewater treatment facilities to perform pretreatment of wastewater streams prior to discharge to a POTW.

Based on recent implementation of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulatory setback zones established along the Neches River, locating viable options to design and install an outfall without significant USACE permitting requirements has become increasingly more difficult. Structures proposed in red or yellow setback zones require the applicant to submit an Individual Permit application to the USACE. Linde sought to locate the outfall outside these restricted zones at a discharge location that provides adequate mixing to reduce negative impacts surface water quality while also not encroaching on a red or yellow setback zone. This analysis required significant study including hydrographic data collection and mixing zone modeling, delaying the decision on where to locate the primary outfall and submittal of the TPDES application.

Linde attempted to engage with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to inquire about the applicability of Effluent Guideline Limitations (ELG) to the wastewaters produced prior to the preparation of the TPDES application. In addition to contacting EPA directly, Linde's consultants contacted TCEQ staff to make requests to EPA for determination of the applicability of ELGs listed in 40 CFR 415 in order to accurately complete the TPDES application regarding applicable technology-based limitations. EPA did not provide a response at any point during the pre-application or application development process. EPA's lack of communication delayed the completion and submission of the TPDES application.

Permits for the Facility air emissions have been reviewed and issued by TCEQ. During the air permit review, no comments were received.

With the submittal of this request for a TCEQ Approval to Construct wastewater treatment facilities, I understand that this action does not constitute an authorization to operate or discharge wastewater. I



also acknowledge that approval of this ATC does not obligate TCEQ to issue a TPDES permit for the subject Facility. While under review, TCEQ procedures to develop the TPDES permit, public comment, EPA comment, review and coordination with other state or federal agencies, a contested case proceedings may result in permit requirements or effluent limitations that may be more strict than anticipated conditions, necessitating that Linde modify the design of wastewater treatment facilities or the location of the outfall. I also understand that after further review, TCEQ may determine that discharge authorization cannot be approved requiring Linde to pursue an alternate disposal method.

I certify under penalty of law that this document was prepared under my direction and/or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based upon my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Linde Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Salerno", written over a horizontal line.

Todd Salerno, Linde Executive Director HyCO Operations

Date: 12/7/23

Attachments:

- 12NewsNow_Extract.pdf
- Beaumont Enterprise-Print Edition_1_Extract.pdf
- Beaumont Enterprise-Print Edition_2_Extract.pdf
- Business Journal - Southeast Texas_Extract.pdf
- OCI N.V. Breaks Ground on 1.1 mtpa Blue Ammonia Site in Texas, USA.pdf
- OCI Selects Linde as Partner to Supply Clean Hydrogen to OCIs World-Scale Blue Ammonia Project in the U.S. Gulf Coast.pdf
- OCI to Start Construction of New World-Scale Hydrogen-Based Blue Ammonia Facility in Texas with Production Expected in Q1 2025.pdf
- Press Release-Linde Signs Agreement with ExxonMobil for Carbon Dioxide.pdf
- Press Release-Linde to Invest \$1.8 Billion to Supply Clean Hydrogen to OCIs World-Scale Blue Ammonia Project in the U.S. Gulf Coast.pdf



Linde Signs Agreement with ExxonMobil for Carbon Dioxide Off-take

Print

April 04, 2023

Woking, UK, April 4, 2023 – Linde (NYSE: LIN) announced today that it has signed a long-term agreement with ExxonMobil (NYSE: XOM) for the off-take of carbon dioxide associated with Linde’s new clean hydrogen production in Beaumont, Texas.

Linde previously announced that it will build, own and operate an on-site complex to supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI Global’s (Euronext: OCI) new world-scale blue ammonia plant. Linde’s new facility is expected to start up in 2025 and will be integrated into Linde’s extensive U.S. Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure. It will also supply clean hydrogen to other new and existing off-takers across the network.

Under the terms of the agreement, ExxonMobil will transport and permanently store up to 2.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year from Linde’s hydrogen production facility, equivalent to the emissions from nearly half a million cars per year.

“Clean hydrogen is a key enabler of industry’s transition to a low-carbon economy,” said Dan Yankowski, Senior Vice President Americas, Linde. “Working with ExxonMobil as the carbon dioxide off-taker at our Beaumont project supports Linde’s strategy to decarbonize customer processes while safely and reliably supplying low-carbon hydrogen at scale.”

“ExxonMobil’s agreement with Linde underscores our growing momentum in providing industrial customers with large-scale solutions to sequester carbon dioxide emissions,” said Dan Ammann, President of ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions. “Linde’s Beaumont clean hydrogen project is another significant step towards achieving heavy industry’s decarbonization and net zero goals.”

As one of the world’s leading industrial gases and engineering companies, Linde is playing a key role in the clean energy transition. The company is actively supporting its customers to decarbonize their operations with the latest technologies for clean hydrogen and carbon capture, and by leveraging its world-class engineering organization, its existing hydrogen infrastructure and operational expertise. Linde offers solutions across the entire clean hydrogen value chain and is implementing projects across a range of applications and industries, with more in the pipeline.

About Linde

Linde is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company with 2022 sales of \$33 billion (€30 billion). We live our mission of *making our world more productive* every day by providing high-quality solutions, technologies and services which are making our customers more successful and helping to sustain and protect our planet.

The company serves a variety of end markets including chemicals & energy, food & beverage, electronics, healthcare, manufacturing, metals and mining. Linde's industrial gases are used in countless applications, from life-saving oxygen for hospitals to high-purity & specialty gases for electronics manufacturing, hydrogen for clean fuels and much more. Linde also delivers state-of-the-art gas processing solutions to support customer expansion, efficiency improvements and emissions reductions.

For more information about the company and its products and services, please visit www.linde.com

Contacts

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Linde to Invest \$1.8 Billion to Supply Clean Hydrogen to OCI's World-Scale Blue Ammonia Project in the U.S. Gulf Coast

Print

February 06, 2023

Woking, UK, February 6, 2023 – Linde (NYSE:LIN; FWB:LIN) announced today that it has signed a long-term agreement to supply clean hydrogen and other industrial gases to OCI's (Euronext: OCI) new world-scale blue ammonia plant in Beaumont, Texas.

Linde will build, own and operate an on-site complex which will include autothermal reforming with carbon capture, plus a large air separation plant. The new complex will be integrated into Linde's extensive Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure. It will supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI's 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia plant, the first greenfield blue ammonia facility of this scale to come onstream in the United States. Linde will supply OCI with clean hydrogen by sequestering more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

In addition to supplying OCI, Linde will also use its extensive pipeline network to provide clean hydrogen to existing and new customers in the U.S. Gulf Coast, addressing the increasing demand from companies to decarbonize their operations. The facility will also supply atmospheric and rare gases to existing and new customers. Linde's total investment will be approximately \$1.8 billion and the project is expected to start up in 2025.

"Linde's capabilities are already enabling the transition to a low-carbon-intensity economy," said Sanjiv Lamba, Chief Executive Officer, Linde. "Our strategy is to support decarbonization by working with off-takers, like OCI, to safely and reliably supply low-carbon industrial gases at scale. With Linde's track record in successfully executing complex projects, its extensive pipeline network, and support from the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, the company is well positioned to secure many more clean energy projects."

"The Beaumont facility will allow us to build and strengthen our world-leading blue ammonia and clean fuels platform, supplying both the U.S. and export markets with blue ammonia, an ideal solution to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as agriculture, power and marine fuels at a competitive cost," said Ahmed El-Hoshy, Chief Executive Officer, OCI. "Linde's expertise in managing large-scale and complex engineering projects, and safely and reliably delivering industrial gases, made it a solid choice as a partner for this project."

As one of the world's leading industrial gases and engineering companies, Linde is playing a key role in the clean energy transition. The company is actively helping its customers to decarbonize their operations with the latest hydrogen technologies through its world-class

engineering organization, key alliances and ventures, and leveraging its extensive experience and infrastructure. Linde is developing clean hydrogen projects across a range of applications and industries and growing its established hydrogen business along the entire value chain.

About Linde

Linde is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company with 2021 sales of \$31 billion (€26 billion). We live our mission of *making our world more productive* every day by providing high-quality solutions, technologies and services which are making our customers more successful and helping to sustain and protect our planet.

The company serves a variety of end markets including chemicals & energy, food & beverage, electronics, healthcare, manufacturing, metals and mining. Linde's industrial gases are used in countless applications, from life-saving oxygen for hospitals to high-purity & specialty gases for electronics manufacturing, hydrogen for clean fuels and much more. Linde also delivers state-of-the-art gas processing solutions to support customer expansion, efficiency improvements and emissions reductions.

For more information about the company and its products and services, please visit www.linde.com

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FIRES Trigger explosions in Greece, A3

SCOTUS Pipeline project to resume, A4

OHIO Train crash costs hit \$803M, A7

FOOTBALL Most common injuries, B1

MIRACLE TREAT DAY



From left Dax Henley, Hope Ryder, Kaydi Hawthorne, Zain Sayyed and Brett Baxter dig in during a Dairy Queen Blizzard eating contest at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital Thursday morning to kick off a fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network.

Photos by Kim Brent/The Enterprise



Hope Ryder fights through the frosty pain.



Zain Sayyed battles a brain freeze.

Chillin' for a cause

By Kim Brent
PHOTOJOURNALIST

It may have been near 80 degrees at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, but inside the cafeteria at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital, it felt more like a blizzard as five local students battled brain freeze for a cause during an early morning Blizzard Eating Contest.

The event kicked off Dairy Queen's Miracle Treat Day fundraiser to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Christus Southeast Texas Health.

This is the second year Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital has hosted the event to help promote the day-long fund-

raiser, where \$2 of every Blizzard sold at Dairy Queen stores will go to the local Children's Miracle Network, with 100% of the money raised benefiting sick Southeast Texas children. Donors who can't make it out to their local Dairy Queen Thursday can contribute online at www.christus-southeasttexasfoundation.org.

"Here at Christus Southeast Texas, we are constantly working to ensure we have state-of-the-art medical equipment for treatment, offering preventative care and other support services to build healthier communities," Christus Southeast Texas Children's Miracle Network program manager Caralee



From left, Hope Ryder, Kaydi Hawthorne, Dax Henley, Brett Baxter and Zain Sayyed pose near a decorative logo, Thursday.

Thompson said in a news release.

Support from regional businesses to raise funds is critical to that mission.

In the 35 years Southeast Texas Dairy Queen stores have partnered with the network, more than \$350,000 has been raised through events like Miracle Treat Day.

Thompson reached out to local schools to recruit participants, who dug into their frosty treats in a race to finish first. Fighting their way through the icy treats, participants laughed as parents cheered and shouted for them to take bigger bites.

East Chambers junior Dax Henley continues on A2

Plane makes emergency landing at Beaumont airport

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

A small plane made an emergency landing at Jack Brooks Regional Airport earlier this week after losing a portion of its landing gear over Nederland.

Around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, 9-11 calls reported that a small plane lost a portion of its landing gear over 34th Street in Nederland, according to a news release from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The plane made radio contact with the air traffic control tower at the Jack Brooks Regional Airport.

The pilot made an emergency landing and no injuries were reported, according to deputies.

According to the release, Jack Brooks Regional Airport Manager Alex Rupp said that the Federal Aviation Administration was notified of the landing, and the airport was closed.

To report sightings of parts that could belong to the plane, contact the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at 409-835-8668.

Linde to bring \$1.8B hydrogen facility to Beaumont

By Courtney Pedersen
STAFF WRITER

Within the next few months, Southeast Texas will begin to see the signs of construction on a \$1.8 billion complex that will produce hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen.

Linde, a global industrial gas and engineering company, will be building its new "Clean Hydrogen Project" in Beaumont on Twin City Highway South. The complex will be integrated into Linde's existing Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure.

"The project is to build clean energy and infrastructure for the Beaumont area," Plant Manager Jacob Keeling said. "What that means is we're putting in a hydrogen facility that has low carbon intensity."

The company held a vendor fair Thursday at the Downtown Event Centre to look for civil, me-

Linde continues on A2

Donna's Farm Stand goes on break next week

By Kim Brent
PHOTOJOURNALIST

Those who enjoy a trip to the farm to purchase produce or flowers will want to pencil in a trip to Fannett by Friday.

Donna's Farm is winding down its Farm Stand business this week before going on a summer break on Aug. 1. The stand re-

opens on Thursday, Sept. 28 for its twice-weekly sale days Thursday and Friday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Donna's Farm will continue to sell seasonal produce and flowers at the Beaumont Farmer's Market and Riverfront Market in Port Neches, and customers can still pick up milk orders at the farm on Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.



Steve Heironimus sets up produce for the open farm stand market at Donna's Farm, Thursday.

Photos by Kim Brent/The Enterprise



The open farm stand market at Donna's Farm will close for a summer break starting Aug. 1.

Fresh herbs are shelved at the open farm stand market at Donna's Farm on Thursday.

INSIDE

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YOUR DAY

TRENDING

Enormous bologna sandwich unveiled at fair

LEBANON, Pa. — An enormous Lebanon bologna sandwich billed as one of the world's largest has been unveiled at a central Pennsylvania fair.

The 150-foot-long sandwich was created Tuesday night at the Lebanon Area Fair by a large crew of volunteers known as the "Bologna Security." Lebanon bologna is known for its distinct smoked and tangy flavor. Every footlong "bite" was sponsored at \$100 per foot. The money was

donated to Lebanon County Christian Ministries and their efforts to help people dealing with food insecurity in the Lebanon Valley.

PennLive reports that Bologna Security used 600 slices of provolone cheese and 1,200 slices of half-sweet and original Seltzer's Lebanon Bologna to create 900 sandwiches, or six sandwiches per foot. Fairgoers had a chance to enjoy the sandwich for free Tuesday night.

Lebanon is 72 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Teen now faces murder charge in graduation day shooting

RICHMOND, Va. — A teen charged in a fatal shooting at a Richmond high school graduation last month now faces a first-degree murder charge, according to on-line court records.

On Wednesday a grand jury indicted Amani Pollard, 19, on a first-degree murder charge and a firearms offense in the death of 18-year-old graduate Shawn Jackson on Wednesday, WRIC-TV reported.

Jackson and his stepfather Lorenzo Smith, 36, were both fatally shot just minutes after the graduation ceremony at Huguenot High School in Richmond, Virginia, and the gunfire sent hundreds fleeing in panic outside



Volunteers assemble a 150-foot-long bologna sandwich at the Lebanon Area Fair on Tuesday in Lebanon, Pa. Every footlong "bite" was sponsored at \$100 per foot.

the state capital's Altria Theater. Five other people were wounded in the shooting, and at least 12 more suffered other injuries or were treated for anxiety due to the mayhem, according to police. Richmond police have said Jackson was targeted, and that he and Pollard had been embroiled in a dispute for more than

a year. Pollard was initially charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the June 6 shooting deaths of Jackson and Smith. Pollard is scheduled to appear in Richmond General District Court on those charges Friday, on-line records show.

Official accused of prison vendor kickback scheme

AUGUSTA, Maine — A Maine corrections official steered prison purchases to specific vendors in exchange for kickbacks in a long-running scheme, according to law enforcement officials.

Gerald E. Merrill, deputy superintendent at the Mountain View Correctional Facility in Charleston and Downeast Correctional Facility in Machiasport, was arrested Tuesday and charged with theft and bribery. The theft charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years

in prison.

Merrill, 61, made his initial court appearance via Zoom on Wednesday. His attorney didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on Merrill's behalf.

Maine State Auditor Matthew Dunlap said the attorney general's criminal investigation stemmed from a broader project in his office to examine routine transactions and identify patterns. Merrill's spending pattern caught the auditors' attention, Dunlap said.

Maine Corrections Commissioner Randy Liberty said he was "deeply disturbed" about the allegations.

"The Maine Department of Corrections expects its employees, like all state employees, to adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct and failure to do so is unacceptable," he said in a statement.

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Postmaster

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LOTTERY RESULTS

Pick 3 momo:

2-7-3, Fireball: 5

Pick 3 eve:

0-3-6, Fireball: 1

Pick 3 even:

8-1-0, Fireball: 8

Pick 4 momo:

4-8-3-4, Fireball: 6

Daily 4 day:

6-5-4-2, Fireball: 4

Daily 4 eve:

3-4-5-6, Fireball: 0

ALL OR NOTHING

Momo: 1-2-3-5-7-9-10-18-19-20-21-22-24

Day: 3-4-6-7-8-10-18-19-20-22-23-24

Eve: 4-5-8-9-10-11-12-13-16-20-21-24



PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for giving us faith and strength to go on in the hardest of hard times and need. Amen.

LINDE

From page A1

chanical, building, general facilities/supplies, instrumentation and temporary site facilities contractors.

Keeling said the fair is meant to encourage collaboration between the company and local community.

"Beaumont has a wealth of a talent that we're trying to tap into because there's just so much industry already here," he said. "We're looking for opportunities to connect with the local community and the local contractors to try to really make the best project that we can together."

Sanitary Supply Company Vice President David Henderson said his company attended the event to make contacts in the industry that uses their types of janitorial and safety supply products.

Henderson said Sanitary Supply Company usually attends three to four vendor fairs and they are typically "really successful."

"We're already working with OCI right now, so it's great to have them here," Henderson said. "(Linde) made a commitment to work with local vendors, and we've been in business here in Beaumont since 1937. So, we're pretty local and just making our presence known with these folks."



Linde, an industrial gases and engineering company, hosted a vendor fair for its new \$1.8 billion Beaumont hydrogen plant Thursday at the Beaumont Event Centre.

Linde Gases U.S. Director of Marketing and Strategy Brian Kelleher said the company will create about 1,200 jobs during construction and 30 permanent positions.

The facility will supply hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI's 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia plant in Beaumont, according to the company.

"Linde will supply OCI

with clean hydrogen by sequestering more than 1.7 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year," the project's information sheet states. "Linde will also use its extensive pipeline network to provide clean hydrogen to existing and new customers in the U.S. Gulf Coast, addressing the increasing demand from companies to decarbonize their opera-



Photos by Courtney Pedersen/The Enterprise

tions." Clean hydrogen has no universally-accepted definition, however, and largely refers to hydrogen produced with lower emissions than fossil fuel-based methods, as opposed to hydrogen with no or extremely low emissions.

Linde's process is low carbon intensity and uses natural gas, as well as hy-

drogen and oxygen, according to Keeling.

The process of producing hydrogen from natural gas is typically referred to as "blue hydrogen" and carries the potential for methane leakage, among other potential emissions. However, the blue hydrogen process from autothermal reforming — splitting the hydrogen from methane, like Linde employs —

has shown to create the least greenhouse gas emissions of other blue hydrogen processes, according to a study from University of Alberta researchers that appeared in Energy Conversion and Management.

"Most people who use this don't have a way to capture the carbon that's removed, we do," Keeling said. "We are able to capture most of that carbon, and that's what makes us low carbon intensity, which means that we don't release pollutants into the environment."

Linde also will make nitrogen and oxygen at the plant.

"The atmosphere content of nitrogen is like roughly 78 percent," Keeling said. "We use cold temperatures to basically separate out the nitrogen and the oxygen."

Keeling said OCI will also be its main customer for nitrogen. However, there will be "a lot of other customers" that will be tapping into the nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen through their pipeline.

"There's a lot of infrastructure in the area that's looking for clean hydrogen, and so we'll be able to provide it to the infrastructure as well," Keeling said.

Construction is expected to begin early in the fourth quarter of 2023 and be completed by the end of 2025, according to the company.

BLIZZARD

From page A1

Henley was the first to set down his spoon, winning a \$20 Dairy Queen gift card. Second place went to Lumberton's Kaydi Hawthorne followed by Port Neches senior Hope Ryder, who received \$15 and \$10 gift cards, respectively. West Brook's Zain Sayyed and Vidor's Brett Baxter each won a \$5 gift

card for participating, though both were already winners in the Children's Miracle Network circle.

Baxter is this year's CMN Champion, a title given to a patient that has benefited from Children's Miracle Network's care.

He was critically injured last year when his arm went through a window while horseplaying with friends after football practice.

Although a school police officer, who'd re-

cently done trauma training applied a tourniquet immediately. Baxter had already lost half his blood volume by the time he arrived at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital.

"Another 20 or 30 minutes, and he wouldn't have made it," Thompson said.

After emergency surgery, Baxter recovered in the pediatric unit and was in rehabilitation to ultimately make a full recovery and regain func-

tionality in his right arm. His medical care and road to recovery was made possible by the Children's Miracle Network.

It's a cause that has become near and dear to Sayyed's heart in the past year, as well.

He was looking for a new charity at which to volunteer. When he learned about the local chapter of the Children's Miracle Network, he decided to become in-

involved.

"I was looking for a way to make an impact, because I feel like it's my duty to be involved in and help my community," Sayyed said. "I felt like I could align with their values and what they stand for."

He started making that impact by organizing a soccer tournament in April. Through social media and word of mouth, he recruited several teams and raised

over \$2,100 for the network.

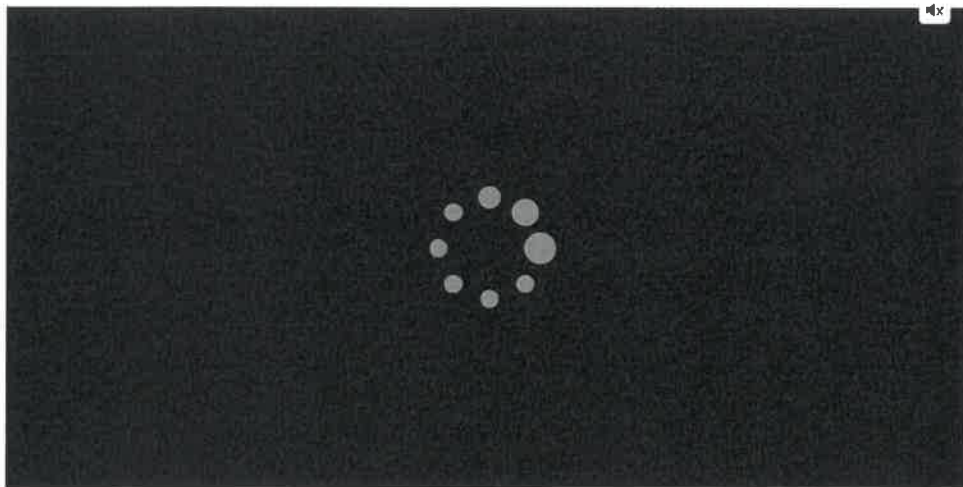
"This Saturday, he's got 10 teams organized for a sand volleyball tournament that will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Beaumont Athletic Complex sand courts."

Through the \$20 per player participation fee and money raised from concession sales, Sayyed expects to raise nearly \$1,800 for the local Children's Miracle Network chapter.

POWER CITY

Linde hosts vendor, contractor fair for its' clean hydrogen plant coming to Beaumont

The job fair hosted by Linde Thursday allowed Southeast Texas-based companies to explain why they are the best fit to support the company's needs.



Author: **Lupita Villarreal, Gloria Walker**
Published: **6:24 PM CDT July 27, 2023**
Updated: **6:25 PM CDT July 27, 2023**



BEAUMONT, Texas — A global industrial gas and engineering company who plans to build, own, and operate an on-site complex in Beaumont hosted a job fair to seek vendors and contractors.

Linde's on-site complex will help hydrogen production with carbon capture, plus a large air separation plant that will produce nitrogen.



Company officials announced in April that it signed a long-term agreement with ExxonMobil for the off-take of carbon dioxide associated with their new clean hydrogen production in Beaumont.

On Thursday, Linde is hosted a vendor and contractor fair at the Downtown Event Centre.

The fair provided an opportunity for Linde to meet contractors, share the types of crafts needed to construct and operate the plant and for contractors learn about supplier qualification, according to a news release from Linde.

Jared Mozley of S&S Sprinklers focused on networking during the event.

"We know that workforce is a huge thing so we have a lot of projects going on right now in our area. So, they knew they needed to do something different possibly to meet people to start those relationships and get the workforce they need," he said.

Plant Manager Jacob Keeling explains how this new facility will impact everyday families.

"Really clean production of the things you are already used to, whether it's plastics of petroleum right. The carbon emission will be significantly less," Keeling said.

The fair allowed Southeast Texas-based companies explain why they are the best fit to support the company's needs.

Industry Marketer Bonnie McMillen Rivea is excited for the opportunity.

"It's amazing, especially with what's going on in the industry sector right now. It's just there are so many projects going on right now, even in the billions of dollars, so I think it is wonderful they are here," Rivea said.

This new technology is allowing more jobs to be brought to the area.

"So, for construction we are looking at 1,200 people right. We will need to actually put everything in and get it installed or get it running or more than 30 full-time jobs afterwards," Keeling said.

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ECONOMY Texas bill poses risk, A3

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SPORTS LeBron nears new record, B1

Buna man gets 22 years in prison for drug trafficking

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

A Buna man has been sentenced to 22 years in

federal prison for drug trafficking violations.

Larry Free, 40, in June pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distrib-

ute methamphetamine and this week was sentenced to 22 years for the crime, according to a news release from the U.S. At-

torney's Eastern District of Texas Office.

Free was distributing the meth from his home in NOME before being pulled

over on U.S. 90, the release said. A police dog alerted on the vehicle and 1,948 grams of meth were found in the vehicle, the release

said. He was indicted in April 2022.

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RETIREMENT PARTY



Photos by Courtney Pedersen/Beaumont Enterprise

City of Beaumont Executive Assistant Angie Thomas celebrated her retirement at a party on Friday at the Beaumont Event Centre Tevis Room.

Beaumont executive assistant dances her way into retirement

By Courtney Pedersen
STAFF WRITER

Angie Thomas' bubbly personality and love for dancing have been a staple for those working in Beaumont City Hall for the past nearly three decades.

"(She's) always dancing," Ward III Council member Audwin Samuel said. "She never changes. She's always bubbly. If anything is needed, she gets it done. ... She's one in a million."

Thomas began her tenure with the city on Nov. 13, 1993, when she started working for the city manager. Since then she has held a variety of titles working with city managers, mayors and the city council, and she's enjoyed every bit.

On Friday, Thomas worked her last day as the executive assistant to the city manager and mayor before entering retirement.

Thomas said she is going to miss working with the people the most.

"I'm a people person,"

Thomas said. "I love working with people, but I'm not going to miss getting up in the morning."

Mayor Robin Mouton said on her first day as a council member, Thomas — who was the executive assistant for the city council at the time — helped her acclimate to the job.

"I walked in the office and she said, 'I'm Angie and I'm going to show you everything you need to know,'" Mouton said.

For the next six years, the two worked together on council.

Mouton later told Thomas that when she became mayor, she'd take her with her as the executive assistant to the mayor — a promise Mouton fulfilled.

But Mouton wasn't the only person Thomas helped on their first day. Ward IV Council member Chris Durio said that he's known Thomas for years, and knowing he'd have her when he got elected made him less nervous.

"We had a history, she knew me, so she helped me to be a better council-

man," Durio said.

"She helped the transition into being a councilman go better, because she knew me and if I did something wrong, she could pop me upside the head."

When City Manager Kenneth Williams started in September 2022, Thomas helped him learn the ways of the job and city as well.

"I've only been there four and a half months, but she was really instrumental in me being able to get come in and get acclimated to the city," Williams said.

"It would have been hard to do without her. I'll miss her energy — her laughter is infectious."

Now that she is retired, Thomas said she is looking forward to doing absolutely nothing.

"I'll have a cup of coffee, sit in my garage and watch the sun rise and go to the beach," Thomas said. "I'll do absolutely nothing, just enjoy life a little bit."

The city has hired two executive assistants to re-

place Thomas since she has been juggling two titles, Mouton said. One will work directly with the mayor and the other with the city manager, according to Mouton.

Sandra Davis, who worked for Port Arthur ISD for 20 years, has already begun her work for Williams.

Mouton said her new assistant will be announced later this week.

"I believe I have a great person that's going to take her place," Mouton said. "Of course you have to learn the job, but I think she's going to do well."

Mouton said she told Thomas that when she's missing her or has a question she'll still call her even though she's retired.

"Teary-eyed Samuel said he's going to miss everything about Thomas, but what he'll miss most is every time he tells her 'I love you' and she responds with 'I love you more.'"

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VALENTINE'S DAY

City celebrates those married 50+ years

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

This Valentine's Day, the City of Beaumont is asking people to nominate individuals who have been married for more than 50 years.

Beaumont Mayor Robin Mouton said at Tuesday's city council meeting that, during the elected body's meeting that happens to fall on Valentine's Day, they will be recognizing those who have been mar-

ried for 50 or more years. "This year, I would like to present anyone that's been married 50 years or more. You deserve to be recognized," Mouton said.

To nominate yourself or someone else, email Communications@Beaumont-Texas.gov with the nominee's contact information by Feb. 10.

megan.zapalac@beaumontenterprise.com
twitter.com/ZapalacMegan

DO YOU KNOW A COUPLE MARRIED 50+ YEARS IN BEAUMONT?

We want to celebrate them on Valentine's Day at the City Council Meeting on February 14, 2023!

Send Nominations + Contact Info to Communications@BeaumontTexas.Gov by 2/10



Chemical company OCI enters partnership for new Beaumont facility

By Courtney Pedersen
STAFF WRITER

OCI, a Netherlands-based chemical company, has entered into a partnership with Linde, an industrial gases and engineering company, for its new Beaumont blue ammonia facility.

OCI's Beaumont hydrogen-based blue ammonia facility, which is being built at 1560 Lone Star Dr. at Twin City Highway, is expected to produce 1.1 mil-

lion metric tons per year. The company broke ground for the facility on Dec. 7 and is expected to start production in 2025.

Linde will supply hydrogen and nitrogen feedstocks to OCI's new facility under a long-term agreement, according to a news release.

"Linde will build, own and operate an on-site complex which will include autothermal reforming with carbon capture, OCI continues on A4

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Sweet smell of success to continue

By R.A. Schuetz
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Roses have a fussy reputation. But take a stroll through an aging cemetery, and you'll find the queen of flowers flourishing long after the humans who planted it have passed away. Sometimes upward of 100 years old, these survivors have thrived in the face of everything Texas weather has thrown at them over the decades, from suffocating humidity and freezes to droughts and triple-degree heat.

Mike Shoup made his career bringing such time-tested roses to the American public. The Antique Rose Emporium, which Shoup founded with his wife, Jean Shoup, in a small town halfway between Houston and Austin, supplies 60,000 to 100,000 roses to the nation a year. Along the way, it has helped many change their views of the rose from a prissy flower requiring helicopter parenting to a Texas-tough landscaping staple.

So when the Shoups announced they were retiring and had sold their nursery to a new family, hundreds of gardeners took to Facebook, where they shared their fondest memories at the Antique Rose Emporium and wondered about its future.

The Shoups and the family of Jim and Kim Keeter, who purchased the nursery, have been doing much of the same.

"When you retire, it's reflective," said Mike Shoup, 70.

The rose, he explained, had opened doors in his life. It saved his career, introduced him to friends and flew him and Jean Shoup, 71, around the world as organizers called on their expertise.

People often reach out to the Shoups about how the nursery has played a role in pivotal moments in their lives as well. Couples remember first dates, engagements and weddings among the flowers. Families ask to spread the ashes of their loved ones on the grounds.

So Shoup feels a sense of gratitude for all the rose has done for him, especially because, for the first three decades of his life, he had no interest in the plant.

Growing up in Spring Branch, his first love was tomatoes. As a 6-year-old, he'd use a wheelbarrow to carry composted leaves from the bottom of a nearby creek to feed his harvest, reveling in the pri-



Photos by Yi-Chin Lee/Houston Chronicle

The Keeter family of Antique Rose Emporium at the field of spring crop. The Keeter family took over the business built by Texas rose legend Mike Shoup in December. From left: Mackenzie and Nathan Knutson, James "Tres" Keeter III and Kim and Jim Keeter.

mordial, mushroomy smell of the rich soil. When he opened his first nursery in the '70s, he sold nonnative plants that were run-of-the-mill at the time — ligustrum, Asiatic jasmine, photinia.

But when the oil industry swung from boom to bust, so did business at his Houston nursery. Looking to create more of a niche for himself, he started combing the countryside with plant enthusiasts including Lynn Lowrey and Carroll Abbott, looking for plants that had evolved to weather the swings of Texas' climate.

Shoup started coming across strikingly healthy and fragrant roses that he did not recognize — he had never seen them available for sale. And after chatting to homeowners and cemetery keepers and hearing that some roses had been happily growing with little care for decades, he was enthralled.

When he and other enthusiasts known as Texas Rose Rustlers find such a tried-and-true rose, they ask for permission to take a cutting and begin growing new ones. Shoup often drove with an ice chest in the back of his vehicle for just this purpose.

Looking back at his career, certain moments stand out: The joy of sinking deep into conversation with a homeowner about the treasures in her yard. The sleuth-like thrill of finding out the name a



Mike Shoup, former owner and founder of Antique Rose Emporium, started the business with his wife.

rose was originally sold under — an endeavor that involves perusing antique catalogs and books and obtaining old roses to see if they match a found plant. The vicarious rush of seeing a customer unexpectedly encounter old memories in the garden.

Once, upon passing a 6-foot-tall rose covered in sweetly pastel blooms, an elderly woman halted in her tracks, then turned to Shoup with tears welling up in her eyes.

"That was my grandmother's rose," she told him. "I haven't smelled that in 50 years."

And for that reason, he wanted to make sure that those roses would survive him. In 2015, he started

looking around for buyers.

Planning for the future

When Jim Keeter Jr. first stepped foot in the Antique Rose Emporium, he felt his spirits lift. Something about the gardens made his worries seem far away. Although he had no relationship to the company, he began calling it the sanctuary. So when he and his wife heard it was for sale, they reached out about purchasing the business. Conversations extended through the pandemic and closed in December, Shoup said.

Jim Keeter grew up in the landscaping industry — his father was a prominent landscape architect whose projects included the master plan for the San Antonio Botanical Garden, an extension of

the San Antonio River Walk and the Riverwalk in Estes Park, Colo. Whenever his father needed roses, Keeter said, he turned to the Antique Rose Emporium.

The new ownership of the nursery will be a family affair. Jim Keeter, 62, will bring his experience working with his father's company. Kim Keeter, 51, will provide her administrative skills from working as a director at various nonprofits. Their daughter, 30-year-old Mackenzie Knutson will use her degree in digital marketing and photography. And their son-in-law, 30-year-old Nathan Knutson, will pull on his background growing up in an orchard to help with the propagating, breeding and shipping sides of the operation. Nine-year-old James "Tres" Keeter III already has busied himself with befriending the various cats who live on the grounds.

In January, when roses are dormant, a big part of running a nursery is about preparation. The Keeters and Knutsons have been busy making plans for the future. Yes, they plan to continue propagating old garden roses and will honor all orders. But they're also thinking about bringing in live music, hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the change in ownership, working with college and high school students from nearby hor-

ticulture programs and organizing a return of the rose festival, a fall event at the nursery that brings in educational speakers that was paused during the pandemic.

Booming demand

In addition, Jim Keeter is toying with the idea of resurrecting his father's landscape architecture company to help customers design and install the rose gardens of their dreams, and the family hopes to increase the number of roses they produce every year.

When people were confined to their homes at the beginning of the pandemic, demand for roses boomed — and the nursery, which originally sold roughly a third of its roses wholesale to landscaping companies, had to pause that segment of its business in an attempt to satisfy its other customers. The Keeters and Knutsons hope an expansion will allow them to resume wholesale orders.

On a recent Thursday, the family walked past greenhouses, in which the balmier air was perfumed with the bloom of young plants protected from the recent freeze. Outside, 60,000 older roses were waiting for their turn to be sold in the retail center or shipped directly to customers.

"This is the dream," Kim Keeter said. "I'm still pinching myself," Jim Keeter agreed.

OCI

From page A1

plus a large air separation plant," the release states. "The new complex will be integrated into Linde's extensive Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure."

The company will supply OCI with hydrogen, which OCI will then upgrade to produce blue ammonia, according to the release.

Blue ammonia is a low-carbon method of producing ammonia and decreases the climate impact as is caused by gray ammonia, but is not 100% renewable as is done when making green ammonia.

Linde will sequester more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year in an effort to offset carbon emissions associated with the delivered hydrogen.

"Linde's capabilities are already enabling the transition to a low carbon intensity economy," Linde Chief Executive Officer Sanjiv Lamba said in the release. "Our strategy is to support decarbonization by working with off-takers, like OCI, to safely and

reliably supply low-carbon industrial gases at scale. With Linde's track record in successfully executing complex projects, its extensive pipeline network, and support from the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, the company is well positioned to secure many more clean energy projects."

OCI's total investment for the facility is expected to be less than \$1 billion,

and Linde's will be approximately \$1.8 billion, the release states.

"The Beaumont facility will allow us to build and strengthen our world-leading blue ammonia and clean fuels platform, supplying both the U.S. and export market with blue ammonia, an ideal solution to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as agriculture, power and marine fuels at a competitive cost,"

said OCI Chief Executive Officer Ahmed El-Hoshy. "Linde's expertise in managing large-scale and complex engineering projects, and safely and reliably delivering industrial gases, made it a solid choice as a partner for this project."

The project is expected to start up in 2025.

courtesy.pedersen@beaumontenterprise.com
twitter.com/courripede



Courtesy Pedersen/Beaumont Enterprise

OCI executives and local leaders broke ground on the company's new Blue Ammonia Project facility located at Twin City Highway on Dec. 7.

DECEASED

Jane Elizabeth Hamrock, 76, of Nederland, died Feb. 1, 2023. Melancon's Funeral Home, Nederland.

Gerard Morrow, 64, of Beaumont, died Feb. 3, 2023. Proctor's Mortuary, Beaumont.

Mitchell Newsom, 63, of Port Neches, died Feb. 3, 2023. Broussard's, Nederland.

Harry J. Doyle Jr., 87, of Port Acres, died Feb. 4, 2023. Broussard's, Nederland.

Shirley Lowe, 97, of Orange, died Feb. 4, 2023. Claybar Funeral Home, Orange.

Mary Rose Granger, 84, of Orange, died Feb. 4, 2023. Claybar Funeral Home, Orange.

Albert Prenell, 90, of Beaumont, died Feb. 4, 2023. Mercy Funeral Home.

Jessie Turner, 88, of Beaumont, died Feb. 04, 2023. Mercy Funeral Home.

Jerral Reid Kay, 79, of Orange, died Feb. 4, 2023. Claybar Funeral Home, Orange.

Robert Wayne Broussard, 69, of Beaumont, died Feb. 4, 2023. Proctor's Mortuary, Beaumont.

Lyndon Baines Johnson, 58, of Beaumont, died Feb. 4, 2023. Proctor's Mortuary, Beaumont.

Catherine Thomas, 74, of Beaumont, formerly of Houma, La., died Feb. 4, 2023. Proctor's Mortuary, Beaumont.

Mary Levergne, of Hankamer, died Feb. 4, 2023. Proctor's Mortuary, Anaheim.

Jimmie Louise Mouchette, 74, of Groves, died Feb. 5, 2023. Clayton Thompson Funeral Home, Groves.

Barbara Theriot, 98, of McKinney, formerly of Port Arthur, died Feb. 6, 2023. Clayton Thompson Funeral Home, Groves.

Jessie Turner, 88, of Beaumont, died Feb. 04, 2023. Mercy Funeral Home.

Jerral Reid Kay, 79, of Orange, died Feb. 4, 2023. Claybar Funeral Home, Orange.

Margaret James, 71 a.m., Broussard's, 2000 McFaddin Ave, Beaumont.

Johnny Mendez Jr., 2 p.m., Broussard's, Silsbee.



Press Release

Amsterdam, The Netherlands / 6 February 2023

OCI Selects Linde as Partner to Supply Clean Hydrogen to OCI's World-Scale Blue Ammonia Project in the U.S. Gulf Coast

- Linde to supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen feedstocks to the new facility under a long-term agreement
- Project is largest blue ammonia facility of its kind in Texas, enabling the capture and sequestration of up to 1.7 million metric tons per year of CO₂
- Construction has started and the project is on track to start production in 2025

OCI N.V. (Euronext: OCI) and Linde plc (NYSE: LIN; FWB: LIN), a leading global industrial gases and engineering company, today announced a partnership where Linde will supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI's new blue ammonia facility under development in Beaumont, Texas under a long-term agreement.

Linde will build, own and operate an on-site complex which will include autothermal reforming with carbon capture, plus a large air separation plant. The new complex will be integrated into Linde's extensive Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure. It will supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI's 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia plant, the first greenfield blue ammonia facility of this scale to come onstream in the United States.

Linde will supply OCI with clean hydrogen, by sequestering more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. OCI will upgrade the hydrogen to produce blue ammonia, which allows OCI to materially reduce the carbon footprint of its downstream customers along the value chain across a wide range of industries.

Linde's total investment will be approximately \$1.8 billion, and OCI's total investment cost is expected to be below \$1 billion, including spending on upsized utilities and available land to allow for doubling to 2.2 mtpa capacity in the future. The project is expected to start up in 2025.

"The Beaumont facility will allow us to build and strengthen our world-leading blue ammonia and clean fuels platform, supplying both the U.S. and export market with blue ammonia, an ideal solution to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as agriculture, power and marine fuels at a competitive cost," said **Ahmed El-Hoshy, Chief Executive Officer of OCI N.V.** "Linde's expertise in managing large-scale and complex engineering projects, and safely and reliably delivering industrial gases, made it a solid choice as a partner for this project."

"Linde's capabilities are already enabling the transition to a low carbon intensity economy," said **Sanjiv Lamba, Chief Executive Officer, Linde.** "Our strategy is to support decarbonization by working with off-takers, like OCI, to safely and reliably supply low-carbon industrial gases at scale. With Linde's track record in successfully executing complex projects, its extensive pipeline network, and support from the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, the company is well positioned to secure many more clean energy projects."



Press Release

About OCI N.V.

OCI N.V. (Euronext: OCI) is a leading global producer and distributor of hydrogen-based products providing low carbon fertilizers, fuels, and feedstock to agricultural, transportation, and industrial customers around the world. OCI's production capacity spans four continents and comprises approximately 16.2 million metric tons per year of hydrogen-based products including nitrogen fertilizers, methanol, biofuels, diesel exhaust fluid, melamine, and other products. OCI has more than 3,850 employees, is headquartered in the Netherlands and listed on Euronext in Amsterdam.

Learn more about OCI at www.oci.nl. You can also follow OCI on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Linde

Linde is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company with 2021 sales of \$31 billion (€26 billion). We live our mission of *making our world more productive every day* by providing high-quality solutions, technologies and services which are making our customers more successful and helping to sustain and protect our planet.

The company serves a variety of end markets including chemicals & energy, food & beverage, electronics, healthcare, manufacturing, metals and mining. Linde's industrial gases are used in countless applications, from life-saving oxygen for hospitals to high-purity & specialty gases for electronics manufacturing, hydrogen for clean fuels and much more. Linde also delivers state-of-the-art gas processing solutions to support customer expansion, efficiency improvements and emissions reductions.

For more information about the company and its products and services, please visit www.linde.com

For additional information contact:

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Tel: +31 (0) 6 18 251 367

For additional information on OCI:

www.oci.nl

OCI stock symbols: OCI / OCI.NA / OCI.AS

Honthorststraat 19
1071 DC Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Amsterdam, The Netherlands / 7 December 2022

OCI N.V. Breaks Ground on 1.1 mtpa Blue Ammonia Site in Texas, USA

- Largest blue ammonia facility of its kind in Texas, enabling the capture and sequestration of up to 1.7 million metric tons per year of CO₂
- Total investment cost for OCI expected to be below \$1 billion, including spending on upsized utilities and available land to allow for doubling to 2.2 mtpa capacity in the future
- Project builds on OCI's existing US nitrogen and methanol facilities, while supporting food security, US energy independence and contributing to Texas' objectives of building a clean energy hub
- New facility will support around 60-80 new full-time jobs, as well as around 1,000 construction jobs at the peak of site construction for the OCI scope
- Project is on track for start production in 2025: site preparation work is near complete, construction activities are commencing and air permit has been received

OCI N.V. (Euronext: OCI) today announced that construction is starting on what currently will be the largest blue ammonia facility to come onstream in Texas, wholly owned by OCI N.V. Today's groundbreaking puts the project on track for production to begin as scheduled in 2025. The project also received its air permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on 1 December 2022, another significant milestone.

The project's site is adjacent to OCI's existing integrated 1.4 million metric ton per year methanol-ammonia production facility in Beaumont and 1.8 million metric ton per year 50%-owned methanol joint venture, Natgasoline, and leverages the significant and growing capabilities that exist in Southeast Texas for blue and green ammonia and hydrogen production. The area already has extensive existing hydrogen pipeline delivery infrastructure, hydrogen storage capability and industrial customers. South East Texas also has a wealth of companies leading in energy technology integration, deployment, operations, and maintenance, and a skilled labor force in clean energy.

Nassef Sawiris, Executive Chair of OCI N.V. said: "We are delighted that OCI is expanding its already significant presence in South-East Texas, a region which, as a clean energy leader and with its strategic location, plays a key role in the growing low-to-zero carbon hydrogen industry and is one of the best places globally to invest in this area. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with Jefferson County, the City of Beaumont, Beaumont ISD, the special districts, and the State of Texas."

Ahmed El-Hoshy, Chief Executive Officer of OCI N.V., commented: "The potential for clean ammonia to solve many of our global problems has become increasingly clear. It is not only an essential fertilizer that ensures food security for over 4 billion people, low-carbon ammonia is a clean fuel that provides an ideal solution available today for hard-



Press Release

to-abate sectors such as power and shipping. This world-scale facility will be a significant part of that, resulting in a very significant reduction in carbon emissions equivalent to taking almost half a million cars off the road permanently. The potential here is great and I'm delighted that breaking ground today signifies we're on track to deliver on that."

OCI will upgrade "over-the-fence" blue hydrogen to produce blue ammonia, where over 95% of carbon emissions will be captured and sequestered. This allows OCI to materially reduce the carbon intensity of its products for downstream customers along the value chain, resulting in carbon footprint reductions across a wide range of industries including transportation, power, manufacturing and agriculture.

The ammonia plant uses KBR technology and the EP ("Engineering and Procurement") contract was awarded to Maire Tecnimont in March 2022.

Blue ammonia is produced from hydrogen derived from natural gas where the CO₂ by-product is captured and sequestered. Green ammonia is produced from hydrogen based on renewable sources such as wind and solar rather than fossil fuels. This project has been designed to transition from blue to green ammonia production in the future as green hydrogen becomes available at larger scale.

OCI is also continuing its investments in the future talent of the area. OCI recently announced a \$200k donation to the Beaumont Independent School District to develop opportunities to expand STEM education for students, continuing its long-term partnership with the school district.



Press Release

About OCI N.V.

OCI N.V. (Euronext: OCI) is a leading global producer and distributor of hydrogen-based products providing low carbon fertilizers, fuels, and feedstock to agricultural, transportation, and industrial customers around the world. OCI's production capacity spans four continents and comprises approximately 16.2 million metric tons per year of hydrogen-based products including nitrogen fertilizers, methanol, biofuels, diesel exhaust fluid, melamine, and other products. OCI has more than 3,850 employees, is headquartered in the Netherlands and listed on Euronext in Amsterdam.

Learn more about OCI at www.oci.nl. You can also follow OCI on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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OCI stock symbols: OCI / OCLNA / OCLAS

Honthorststraat 19
1071 DC Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Amsterdam, The Netherlands / 8 September 2022

OCI to Start Construction of New World-Scale Hydrogen-Based Blue Ammonia Facility in Texas with Production Expected in Q1 2025

- OCI to start construction of 1.1 mtpa blue ammonia facility with infrastructure to double capacity to 2.2 mtpa
- Leverages the recently signed US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to use 45Qs to reduce emissions by more than 70% on a life cycle basis compared to conventional ammonia production
- Optimal location in Texas with easy access to both the US and export markets including Europe and Asia to serve significant expected demand for clean hydrogen
- Complementary to OCI's Rotterdam ammonia throughput expansion to provide the full value chain with blue ammonia, to be delivered to customers using new ammonia-fueled vessels ensuring a minimal carbon footprint
- Project is well underway with EP contract awarded in March 2022 and long-lead equipment ordered
- Targeted start of production in Q1 2025

OCI N.V. (Euronext: OCI) today announced it will start construction of a world-scale 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia project in Beaumont, Texas, based on KBR technology. The passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the enhanced 45Q credits in the Act strengthened the attractiveness of this project.

The US Gulf is a strategic location that allows the facility to serve both the US market and export clean ammonia as a hydrogen carrier to hydrogen deficit markets around the world such as Europe and Asia, as well as catering for expected significant demand from new applications including power and shipping fuels. The blue ammonia will be delivered to customers using future zero carbon ammonia-fueled engine ships, leveraging OCI's global infrastructure.

Nassef Sawiris, Executive Chairman of OCI N.V., commented: “The recent passage of the IRA, which bolsters the regulatory framework and competitiveness of clean ammonia in the US, in addition to technological developments in carbon sequestration, is supporting ammonia as a key driver of the energy transition. We believe OCI, a global leader in hydrogen, will play a pioneering role in the future of this industry.”

The project is well underway, with detailed engineering and procurement work having started earlier this year, and production targeted for Q1 2025. The project has been awarded to Maire Tecnimont on an EP (“Engineering & Procurement”) basis, critical long-lead pieces of equipment have been ordered, and site works are scheduled to start in the coming weeks.



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Capital expenditure is expected to be within OCI's guidance of up to \$450 million growth capex for the Group in 2023 as highlighted in the Q1 2022 results report. Utilities and available land have been sized to allow for doubling of the capacity by adding an additional 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia line in the future.

In June, OCI announced a tripling of throughput capacity at its Port of Rotterdam ammonia import terminal to 1.2 mtpa by 2023, to serve emerging ammonia demand for bunkering to ocean-going vessels and act as a hub to help decarbonize the EU and reduce its reliance on imported natural gas. The new facility is also positioned to supply blue ammonia to OCI's plants in the Netherlands. The company is currently running its ammonia production platform at c.40% of its 1.2 mtpa maximum capacity in the Netherlands due to the high gas prices but is able to operate value added downstream production and continue to address food security concerns with support from imported ammonia.

Ahmed El-Hoshy, CEO of OCI N.V. commented: "We have been working on this project over the past year to put us in a position to break ground by the end of this year. Alongside our existing blue and green ammonia projects in the US and the Netherlands, at Fertiglobe in the Middle East & North Africa, and our green methanol business, this facility will allow us to continue to build and strengthen our world-leading ammonia and clean fuels platform."

"We are also very excited to extend our partnerships with Jefferson County, the City of Beaumont, Beaumont ISD, the special districts, and the State of Texas," he continued. "Their efforts continue to make South-East Texas an attractive place to do business and we look forward to continued development in the area and working together to position the region as a clean energy leader."

Blue ammonia is produced from hydrogen derived from natural gas where the CO₂ by-product is captured and sequestered. Green ammonia is produced from hydrogen based on renewable sources such as wind and solar rather than fossil fuels. This project has been designed to transition from blue to green ammonia production in the future as green hydrogen becomes available at larger scale.

OCI's two core products, ammonia and methanol, are the most promising hydrogen carriers to drive the hydrogen economy and enable the energy transition. As one of the largest producers and traders of ammonia and methanol globally, with a strategically located asset base and access to abundant low-cost renewable energy sources, OCI is well-positioned to benefit from the emerging demand for clean hydrogen and is exploring a variety of projects at its existing global sites in the United States, Europe and at Fertiglobe in the Middle East & North Africa to capitalize on this opportunity.



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Southeast Texas BUSINESS JOURNAL

Serving Jefferson, Orange & Hardin Counties, Texas

Booming business starts with local vendors



Beaumont's Downtown Event Centre was abuzz with activity July 27, as hundreds of Southeast Texas suppliers and vendors lined up to get acquainted with Linde professionals tasked with securing contracts for the company's new multi-million-dollar complex soon to commence construction.

Linde, currently planning construction of a complex in Beaumont to produce hydrogen and nitrogen, is specifically seeking suppliers of permanent buildings; civil, electrical and instru-

mentation servicing; mechanical specialists; temporary structures; as well as general site and facilities services. Construction of this facility is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Coming into the Beaumont vendor fair, the company had already secured the site's manager, named in Jacob Keeling, who is no stranger to the lay of the land around the Golden Triangle.

Keeling, who has been with Linde for about a decade, was most recently at the company's Baton Rouge facility, but he is happy to be on the Texas side

of Interstate 10, where his family calls from Lumberton.

"It's really nice to feel like I'm coming back home," Keeling said, already settling into the community, enrolling his child in school, picking out favorite restaurants, and setting about making Linde a part of the fabric of the community he calls home. "I'm here full-time already.

"We're really looking to build relationships within the community.

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Workforce Solutions of Southeast Texas to host summit

As workforce partners and educators alike prepare local youth for the post-pandemic labor market, new challenges and opportunities have arisen, resulting in a fresh new approach to creating a talent pipeline.

Hosted by Workforce Solutions of Southeast Texas, the Connect to Your Future Summit is scheduled for Sept. 28 at The

Event Centre, Beaumont from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature a special luncheon presentation of current labor market trends and strategies for meeting the changing job needs of students and young adults.

Highlighting significant state and regional labor market trends, Rich Froeschle, Senior Labor Market Economist, Texas State Technical College is

set to serve as guest speaker, emphasizing the methods workforce partners and educators can utilize to move from coordination to integration.

"Southeast Texas, and the state as a whole, has steady job growth, but the pandemic did change the needs of the workforce," said Froeschle. "An increase

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Froeschle

VENDORS

From page 1

We are a community-focused company. We want to improve the areas where we live and work."

"According to Keeling, Linde is involved in Texas communities, partnering with local institutions of higher learning and school districts, offering STEM camps for science enrichment, and plans similar involvement in Beaumont.

"We plan to be here for a really long time," Keeling added.

Joined by the Linde team in Beaumont on July 27, Keeling and his crew were treated to a warm reception.

"We had a lot of great engagement from the community," Keeling shared. Hundreds of connections were made over the morning mix, those making the introductions among the first to be considered to the plethora of contracts to be penned in the near future.

"Great connections were made with local contractors," according to Keeling, in a vast array of fields. "The diversity of contractors that turned up ... civil, electrical environmental... soft services, cleaning, office buildings, ice vendors, technical software providers..."

"The community was really engaged."

As part of this first phase, Keeling said, the company is connecting to suppliers and vendors in the Southeast Texas community. Linde already signed an agreement with the Beaumont-based ExxonMobil to transport and permanently store up to 2.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year from the company's hydrogen production facility, equivalent to the emissions from nearly half a million cars per year.

agreement to supply clean hydrogen and other industrial gases to OCI's new blue ammonia plant in Beaumont. As part of the Linde Gulf Coast industrial gas infrastructure, the company is set to supply clean hydrogen and nitrogen to OCI's 1.1 million ton per annum blue ammonia plant by sequestering more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

In addition to supplying OCI, Linde

to deliver against our sustainability targets while accelerating the decarbonization of our customers around the world."

Keeling said the company's clean approach will only add to the enriching services Linde hopes to provide in and around Beaumont.

"One of the great things about Linde," Keeling said, "we are looking to build clean networks ... and make our communities cleaner and more environmentally friendly."

ExxonMobil is only the beginning.

"ExxonMobil's agreement with Linde underscores our growing momentum in providing industrial customers with large-scale solutions to sequester carbon dioxide emissions," said Dan Ammann, President of ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions. "Linde's Beaumont clean hydrogen project is another significant step towards achieving heavy industry's decarbonization and net zero goals."

"You'll see me everywhere," Keeling added. "We're introducing ourselves into Beaumont in a big way."

Apart from the industry to support Linde's goals, the people of the community are also highly desirable – and part of Linde's plans for the future.

"We're off to a great start," Keeling said, pointing to industry, but also Lamar University, Lamar Institute of Technology, and the array of training facilities around Southeast Texas training a workforce needed to advance technology. "We did our homework. We knew what was here in advance. That's why we invest in communities like Beaumont – there's just so much talent."

The tidal wave of talent presented at the July 27 event will be considered when the time comes to fill the growing Linde needs that come with the new facility's construction.

"Everyone who submitted their information is up for review," Keeling said. "If you don't submit your information, you're taking yourself out of that race."

"We want to work with you, but you have to let us know you want to work."

'We're really looking to build relationships within the community. We are a community-focused company. We want to improve the areas where we live and work.'

— Jacob Keeling, Linde Beaumont site manager

"Clean hydrogen is a key enabler of industry's transition to a low-carbon economy," said Dan Yankowski, Senior Vice President Americas, Linde. "Working with ExxonMobil as the carbon dioxide off-taker at our Beaumont project supports Linde's strategy to decarbonize customer processes while safely and reliably supplying low-carbon hydrogen at scale."

Linde has also signed a long-term

will also use its pipeline network to provide clean hydrogen to existing and new customers in the U.S. Gulf Coast, addressing the increasing demand from companies to decarbonize their operations, as well as atmospheric and rare gases to existing and new customers.

As a leading global industrial gases and engineering company with 2022 sales of \$33 billion, Linde touts providing high-quality solutions, technologies and services to sustain, decarbonize and protect the planet. The company serves a variety of end markets, such as chemicals and energy, food and beverage, electronics, health care, manufacturing, metals and mining.

July 28, Linde announced publication of its 2022 Sustainable Development Report, which details the company's progress towards sustainability goals that include the "35 by 35" initiative that targets absolute greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction by 35% by 2035, compared to 2021.

During 2022, Linde reportedly reduced GHG emissions by 2.8% compared with the previous year.

"Productivity initiatives saved more than 400 million gallons of water and diverted more than 225 million pounds of waste from landfill," the company report detailed. "Linde's products, technologies and services also helped its customers to avoid more than 90 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2022 – comparable to the annual emissions from 20 million passenger cars, and more than double Linde's own global emissions."

"Sustainability is a fundamental part of what Linde does every day," said Sanjiv Lamba, Linde CEO. "I am particularly proud of the contribution our teams have made to improve our environmental performance, reducing absolute greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 and placing us on track to achieve our '35 by 35' target. We will continue

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