



Complex takes search for workers to the Web

Arm & Hammer complex will pick from the 'cream of the crop'

By SEAN ADKINS

For The Evening Sun

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Residents interested in landing a job at Church & Dwight's new Arm & Hammer complex in Jackson Township shouldn't expect to highlight their skills at a traditional job fair.

In fact, the company is taking its search for potential applicants to the Internet as a

way to screen job seekers who are hungry for manufacturing positions.

"We're expecting a big turnout for these jobs, given the shape of the economy," said Matthew Farrell, Church & Dwight's chief financial officer. "We will offer very competitive wages."

This summer, the company plans to start hiring about 250 warehouse and production workers along with 50 salaried positions, he said.

After the company has screened applicants online, Church & Dwight will host interviews at a spot close to the new plant, Farrell said.

"Without a doubt, they will be inundated with applications for the new facility," said John H.

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Boyd, president of The Boyd Co., a Princeton, N.J.-based manufacturing location consulting firm. "They will be in a very advantageous position. They can be very selective and establish the hiring bar high so that they get the cream of the crop."

And during the interview, applicants might want to highlight their information-technology skills.

Many large-scale production plants under construction across the nation have factored in automation and computer technology in their architecture, Boyd said.

"Those workers with experience above and beyond the traditional blue-collar skill sets would have an advantage," he said.

And applicants likely will need to use any leverage they can to snag a manufacturing position in York County.

Between March 2008 and March 2009, York County lost 1,700 manufacturing jobs, according to the state's Department of Labor and Industry.

While potential applicants continue to style their resumes, Church & Dwight will benefit from a large pool of experienced, industrial workers, Boyd said.

So far, the company has filled some key management positions for its 1.1-million-square-foot manufacturing plant and distribution center dubbed the Davies Facility, Farrell said.

The plant, which plans to open in October, will produce liquid

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laundry detergent.

"The project is on track," Farrell said. "The steel is up and the roof is on. It's moving along really well."

ABOUT ARM & HAMMER

Here are some facts about Church & Dwight's Arm & Hammer plant under construction in Jackson Township.

SIZE: 1.1 million manufacturing plant and distribution center

PRODUCT: Liquid laundry detergent

OPENING DATE: October

HIRING DATE: Summer

TYPES OF AVAILABLE JOBS:

Fork-lift operators, line workers, maintenance employees, mechanics and security personnel

HOW MANY JOBS: 250 warehouse and production workers along with an additional 50 salaried positions

HOW WILL THEY SCREEN CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW JOBS: Initially, only online

Source: Church & Dwight

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