

Fortier Complex Overview

Cornerstone Chemical Company is a diversified chemical manufacturer located in Waggaman, Louisiana, with a long standing tradition of bringing the best people and companies together to successfully achieve common goals. Cornerstone's Fortier Manufacturing complex was established in 1952 on 800 acres of land by the Mississippi River that was originally the site of a sugar cane plantation. Through strategic purchase of adjacent property, the site has expanded and continues to maintain a buffer zone with the community. The current processing area covers more than 200 acres, with over 30 acres available for immediate expansion, and additional property accessible to serve future needs. The opportunity to leverage existing infrastructure lessens the land requirement when compared to a greenfield site.

Fortier is situated among numerous manufacturing facilities in the New Orleans – Baton Rouge industrial corridor, which enables ready access to a variety of chemical feedstocks and industrial products, as well as service companies focused on the petrochemical industry. In addition to on site Acrylonitrile, the following major raw materials are also available for use: acetone, methanol, sulfuric acid (regen), and ammonia. The presence of these existing storage and distribution systems minimizes plant investment and working capital, while ensuring reliable supply of critical raw materials.

The Fortier complex has the ability to handle many different processes and operations. The attached schematic illustrates the extensive synergies at Fortier that include vertical integration in products, as well as steam. The plants are well equipped to handle hazardous chemicals, including cyanide and its derivatives, as well as high pressure/temperature operating conditions. Fortier operates both batch and continuous processes (24 hours/day, 365 days/year), which include fixed and fluidized catalyst bed reactors, azeotropic/extractive distillation, crystallization, and solids handling, with a history of excellent plant operability and safety through a highly skilled, diversified, productive, flexible, and motivated workforce.

Safety excellence has always been fundamental to the facility, and we are particularly proud of the strides we are making in enhancing our safety culture as evidenced by the strong participation of our workforce in eliminating exposures. Since 2000, Fortier has reduced its Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) by 30%, on top of an 80% decrease since 1993, through a concentrated program of waste minimization and capital investment. Reportable environmental incidents are down over 70% versus prior year. Customer complaints have been reduced almost 50% since 2000, with an on-time delivery performance in excess of 99.9%. As part of our manufacturing strategy, we benchmark our performance against global competitors to identify gaps and develop annual improvement plans. Performance progress is measured through balanced scorecards so that resources can be realigned as needed.

Our Vision

We are experts at converting energy into industrial chemicals on a large scale.

We do it safely and efficiently to minimize our environmental footprint.

We are a key part of our employees' lives and valued by our community striving to treat these critical stakeholders with the utmost trust and respect while generating economic value in return for individual investment and community support.

We recognize it is our customers who enable our existence, and we relentlessly pursue innovation to exceed their expectations in terms of quality, service, support, and delivery, nurtured by a culture that fosters commitment, excellence, and the unwavering passion of our employees.

We will grow our business, leveraging the knowledge and capabilities of our employees to create value for customers, employees, shareholders, and the community.

Our location along the Mississippi River and within a large regional business market makes it easy to receive and send products to and from other major markets, thereby opening up the world to local industries.

Transportation

- Water: Located at mile marker 115, with three (un) loading terminals on Mississippi river
- Rail: Union Pacific rail line, with spur within the plant operated by site personnel
- Highway: Minutes from I-310 that connects to the federal interstate system
- Air: 30 minutes from New Orleans International Airport

Chemical Intermediates

The following major raw materials are currently produced or consumed at Fortier and can be made available for use:

➤ Acetone	➤ Methanol
➤ Acetone Cyanohydrin	➤ Methylmethacrylate
➤ Acetonitrile (crude)	➤ Natural Gas*
➤ Ammonia	➤ Nitrogen *
➤ Acrylamide	➤ Oxygen*
➤ Acrylonitrile	➤ Propylene*
➤ Hydrogen Cyanide	➤ Sulfur
➤ Melamine	➤ Sulfuric Acid
	➤ Urea

*These materials provided by pipelines serving the Fortier complex

Site Services

Steam: In addition to by-product steam provided by the acrylonitrile and sulfuric acid plants, Fortier operates two 200 klbs/hr boilers, providing steam at 600, 150, and 45 psig.

Electricity: The site is served by two independent electrical feeds from Entergy with automatic switchgear to provide an uninterrupted supply of power, with ~50 MW of surplus capacity. Power is distributed via both 34.5 and 13.8 kV loops to the individual production sites, where it can be further stepped down as needed (480V e.g.).

Natural Gas: Dual supply at 235 psig, surplus capacity of ~90 Million SCF/Day

Refrigeration: Circulated ammonia at -10C

Environmental: End of pipe treatment (equalization, neutralization, and solids removal) for non-hazardous material, as well as deepwell disposal for certain hazardous or organic liquid streams. Fortier also has experience operating thermal oxidizers in the Acrylonitrile unit. This range of operating knowledge has resulted in a team with expertise in the various facets of environmental permitting including Title V (air), NPDES (water), and RCRA (hazardous waste).

Miscellaneous: Instrument Air, Chlorine, Caustic, Coagulated river water (general purpose use), Fire Water, Demineralized water, steam condensate, and boiler feed water. On-site scales for weighing both in-bound and out-bound trucks and tank cars.

A complete range of site services is available at Fortier.

- Safety
- Environmental
- Emergency Response
- Medical
- Supply Chain
- Security providing controlled access
- Accounting
- Customer Service & Order Processing
- Maintenance
- Industrial Hygiene
- Engineering & Construction
- Human Relations & Training
- Waste Management
- Information Technology
- Transportation and Distribution
- Analytical Chemistry & QC Lab

We have also established partnerships with national firms to provide supplemental staff during peak needs in all engineering disciplines (URS), turnaround maintenance (Turner Industries) and information technology (HP).

Wage rates are competitive with the area and reflect the higher productivity of employees in the petrochemical industry. Hourly rates are tiered based on job requirements, experience and knowledge. Specialized rates are available for new or expanded facilities at the Fortier site. Industry turnover averages 2% reflecting the attractiveness of the petrochemical sector, while Fortier employees average almost 18 of service.

Community Involvement

At Fortier, we have a responsibility to help improve the quality of life for our employees, their families and the community. Each year we support a number of local programs and organizations in areas such as education, the environment, and civic and social services.

There are eleven major colleges and universities with 100 miles, with eight only thirty minutes away, as well as a well-established vocational-technical system.

Contact Information

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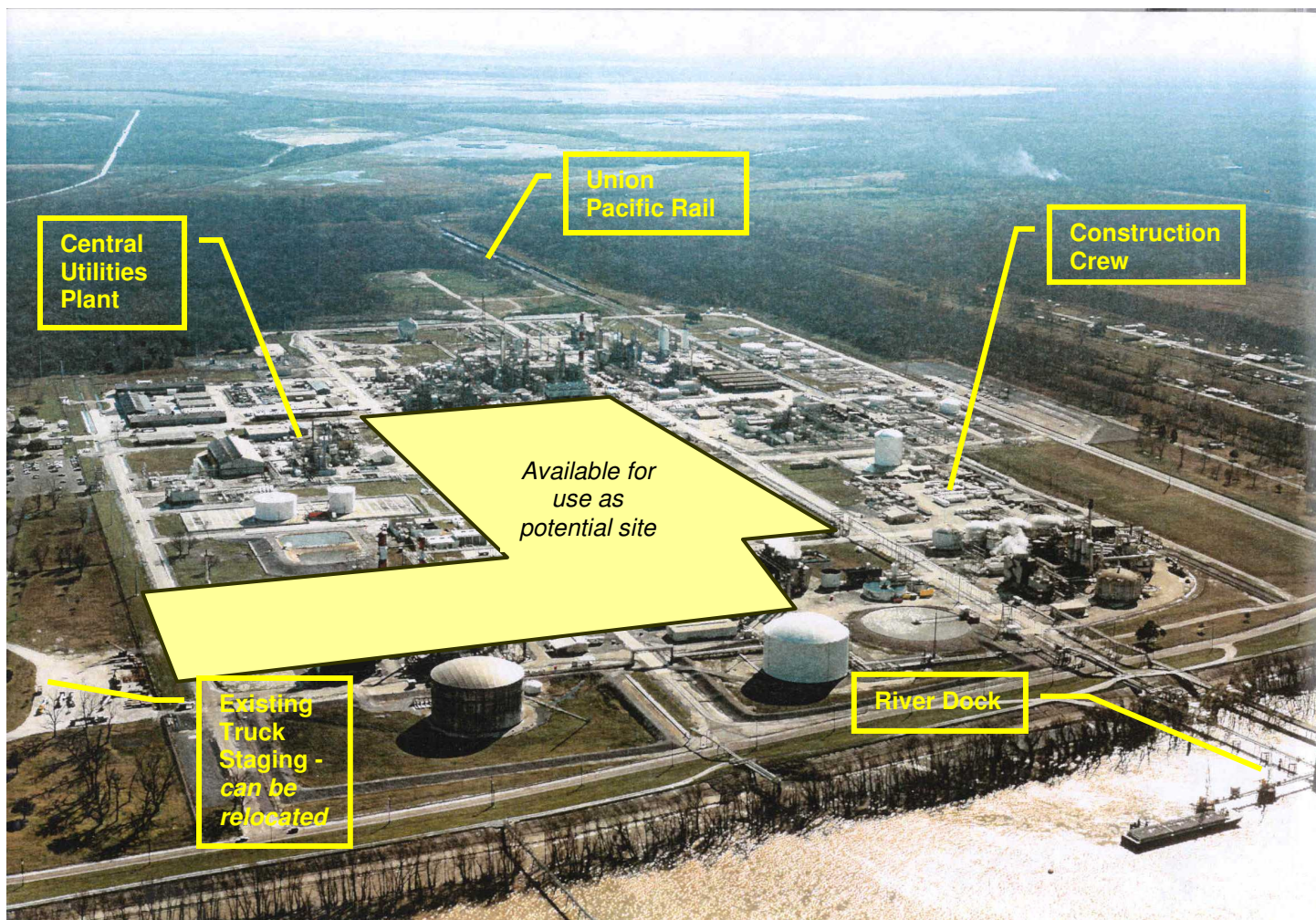
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Location



Aerial View of Fortier



The Fortier plant viewed from the northwest. The Mississippi river is in the foreground. I-310 is 5 miles to the west. The center shaded area represents the available land. Additional vacant land (owned by Cornerstone) may be available on either side of the existing process area. Recognizing that the optimal footprint may differ to reflect local site synergies (effluent treatment, utilities, rail access, etc), the best arrangement can be selected following review of the particular utility/service requirements to take advantage of existing infrastructure.

Appendix – Site Integration

