

News from St. Charles Parish Government

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PHOTOS ATTACHED TO CORRESPONDING E-MAIL
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DOW ST. CHARLES OPERATIONS DONATES CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FOR NEW EOC

HAHNVILLE – A community grant in the amount of \$870,000 from Dow St. Charles Operations will speed along the completion of a much-needed new 13,000-square-foot Emergency Operations Center building for St. Charles Parish.

Parish government and company officials announced the donation at Monday night's regular Parish Council meeting.

The facility, which was proposed in 2009 and has already been designed, comes with an estimated \$5.1 million price tag. The parish received \$2.8 million in FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant funding and state capital outlay for construction and was able to budget just over \$1.3 million from its general fund for construction.

Now Dow St. Charles has stepped up to fill the gap.

“With 2011 marking Dow Chemical's 10th anniversary within St. Charles Parish, we are pleased at the opportunity to work in unison towards the safety of our community,” Dow Site Leader Steve Milligan said. “This \$870,000 is the largest donation in the entirety of those 10 years, and we find it fitting to build upon our history together with a new Emergency Operations Center.”

Parish President V.J. St. Pierre added that the project would be mutually beneficial to parish emergency personnel, residents and the robust business and industrial community in St. Charles.

“Our response to emergencies depends so much on the ability for everyone to work together with all hands on deck,” he said. “This building provides the perfect surroundings to ensure that happens each and every time.”

The facility will feature dedicated communications, operations and conference rooms; a self-sustaining food preparation facility and sleeping quarters for EOC personnel. In addition, the

building will feature several ‘flex’ areas that can be quickly configured to accommodate additional state and local authorities responding to a local disaster. And additional space will be afforded for the benefit of members of the media in order to hold press conferences and briefings. St. Charles Parish is home to 23 industrial facilities and is vulnerable to storm surge from hurricane events.

“Having had the opportunity to work with St. Charles Parish as the former Public Information Officer, I have witnessed first-hand the caliber of work people in our community produce on behalf of the parish,” Dow St. Charles Public Affairs Manager Tommy Faucheux said. “Now they will have a state-of-the-art facility that matches the quality of work and level of service they provide every day.”

The building, which will be able to withstand winds in excess of 200 mph, is set to go to bid this fall, with groundbreaking estimated to take place sometime after the first of the year. By 2013, St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations will have relocated to its new location, barring any unforeseen delays.

The current EOC, located in the basement of the courthouse, is vulnerable to flooding and cannot be expanded from its current size of approximately 2,500 square feet. The new building will be erected across the street from the courthouse on River Road.

The mission of St. Charles Parish government is to provide high quality, efficient services to sustain and enhance the quality of life for all residents of St. Charles Parish.

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CHECK PRESENTATION – Dow St. Charles Operations presents a donation to St. Charles Parish government for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center. From left are Councilman Larry Cochran, Councilman Marcus Lambert, Parish President V.J. St. Pierre, Councilwoman-at-Large Carolyn Schexnaydre, Councilman Dennis Nuss, Dow Public Affairs Manager Tommy Faucheux, Councilman Billy Raymond Sr., Emergency Preparedness Director Scott Whelchel, Councilman Paul Hogan, Dow Site Leader Steve Milligan, Councilman-at-Large Terry Authement, Councilwoman Wendy Benedetto and Councilman Shelley Tastet.

BUILDING DESIGN – A rendering of the soon-to-be-built St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center facility in Hahnville.