An Ethane Cracker Plant in Southwestern Pennsylvania

On June 7, 2016, Royal Dutch Shell announced it was building a $6 billion ethane cracker plant in Beaver County, located in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Four years in the making, this project was the result of the collaboration led by the Governor’s Action Team in partnership with key state, regional, and local government organizations. This game-changing plant will create thousands of jobs in Pennsylvania while expanding and creating market opportunities for downstream manufacturing and job creation.

Shell’s petrochemical plant will be located on a former zinc smelting site on the Ohio River. The plant is projected to employ 6,000 during peak construction and is committed to 600 fulltime positions in the future. The plant will process ethane into polyethylene for the plastics industry. This feedstock will be transported in pellet form to manufacturers prepared to transform them into a variety of plastics-based products including windows, siding, insulation, food packaging, diapers, adhesives, coatings, and more.

Site Selection

Shell’s decision to invest in Pennsylvania is a testament not only to our abundant ethane resources and proximity to key markets, but also to our government partnerships. Over the past four years, various Pennsylvania entities across multiple administrations — including the PA Department of Community & Economic Development, the Governor’s Action Team, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, and local officials in Southwestern Pennsylvania — teamed up to work with Shell to finalize plans for this facility.