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Steel producer eyes Northwest sites to locate new plant

Featuring the West Coast's most inland seaport, the Lewiston, Idaho, area is among the final sites being eyed for a \$400 million steel plant.

Nucor Steel, the sixth largest steel producer in the United States, has been assessing several sites to locate a plant that manufactures rolled steel by recycling scrap iron. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Nucor Steel operates in eight states and employs about 5,600 people.

Because the weight of scrap iron used to operate the plant is too immense to transport by truck or rail, Nucor must choose a deepwater port to ship the materials by barge. Two sites in the Lewiston area are currently under consideration along with a site in Coos Bay, Ore. In addition to transporting scrap iron into the plant, Nucor must ship the final product, sheet metal, out. Each sheet metal roll weighs about 20 tons, also making transportation by barge the most cost-efficient means.

Nucor melts the scrap iron in large furnaces and processes it into rolled steel that other companies can use to make steel pipe, appliances and various other products. Because of the proposed plant's design, Nucor expects little environmental impact to the local area.

The plant would employ up to 500 people with an average salary of \$50,000, potentially making the annual payroll about \$23 million. The majority of employees would be hired locally. At two similar Nucor plants in Arkansas, a total increase in area employment of about 2,000 jobs

resulted from the plants' location.

Since the initial contact with Nucor's Charlotte office in April, a collaborative group has worked to make Lewiston a final candidate. The effort has been led

NUCOR

by the Port of Lewiston with support from WWP and the Idaho Department of Commerce. WWP's departments involved in the Nucor project include power supply, engineering, business development, rates, marketing, operations, public relations, government relations and natural gas.

An energy-intensive operation, the proposed Nucor plant would have an

initial peak requirement of 125 megawatts. In addition, the facility would use about 50,000 therms of natural gas per day. Because of the magnitude of Nucor's energy requirements, WWP expects a significant portion of the requirements will have to be purchased from other utilities. The company has sent out requests for proposals for interruptible capacity to several utilities in the Northwest. Because the majority of Nucor's load requirements would be interruptible, WWP could serve a portion of the load from its own resources.

Nucor expects to select the final site by early fall and begin construction by May 1994. The plant is expected to be complete by mid-1995.

United Way needs loaned executives

WWP is once again looking for two loaned executives for the 1993 United Way fund-raising campaign in Spokane County. Loaned to United Way during the campaign, the executives help plan, manage and implement successful employee campaigns.

During the 1992 United Way campaign, Glenda Garcia, meter reader, and Randi Rich, senior engineer, represented WWP as loaned executives. Both Garcia and Rich said their experience as United Way loaned executives enabled them to develop teamwork and interpersonal skills, as well as improve their ability to make public presentations.

A person who desires personal development, is open-minded about United Way and its campaign and has the support of a supervisor or manager is ideal for these positions. Employees interested in the two-month commitment during



September and October of this year need to submit a one-page summary of personal qualifications and reasons for wanting to be a loaned executive.

Summaries should be sent to Anne Marie Gyrfas by Aug. 5. Selection of 1993 United Way loaned executives will occur by Aug. 10. For more information, call Gyrfas at Ext. 4803.