Chevron Phillips expansion in final stages

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[**Chevron Phillips expansion in final stages**](http://baytownsun.com/content/tncms/live/baytownsun.com/news/article_29f5bd40-7728-11e7-9a7e-ab1ee6cb9e55.html) **By Matt Hollis** **matt.hollis@baytownsun.com** **Baytown Sun |** [**0 comments**](http://baytownsun.com/news/article_29f5bd40-7728-11e7-9a7e-ab1ee6cb9e55.html#user-comment-area)

Bob York, Chevron Phillip’s project manager for the U.S. Gulf Coast Petrochemicals Project, said they hope to have their Cedar Bayou ethane cracker up and running by the end of the year.

Speaking to members of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, York gave an update on the $6 billion expansion at their Cedar Bayou plant.

“At our facility, we are in the final stages of construction,” York said. “By our estimates, we are going to be mechanically complete early in the fourth quarter. We will start our commissioning activities right after that. We have already integrated with the plant operations group. Our goal is to have this unit up and running by the end of the year. The next five months is a fair amount of work.”

York, who once served as the Cedar Bayou plant’s unit supervisor, started by giving an overview of Chevron Phillips. The plant sits on 1,800 acres of land with 800 acres set aside for manufacturing and another 1,000 acres of green space.

They also employ 980 permanent workers, have 1,200 nested contractors and have about 2,000 to 4,000 temporary contractors working on various projects.

“We peaked at over 5,000 with contactors on the project, and they all drive their own cars,” York said.

York went over some stats about the projects. The project is split between the ethane cracker at the Cedar Bayou plant and the two polyethylene units at Old Ocean in Brazoria County.

York added that they are in the process of commissioning and starting up the Old Ocean units and they should be making polyethylene soon.

“One fact that we are really proud of is that we added more than 200 new employees (since 2012),” York said.

York said the expansions also serve as a multiplier in Baytown’s population, which contributes to the local economy.

“The city of Baytown has grown with us,” he said. “Also, we’ve really worked closely with Lee College. We have developed several two-year programs with them. We now have programs for our operational, maintenance programs, welding programs. We have had over 100 employees that we’ve hired that have come out of the Lee College program.”

York said they recognized early on the traffic issues they would have at Interstate 10 and Sjolander Road, where the Cedar Bayou plant resides.

“How are we going to get 5,000 off I-10 and on to Sjolander?” York said. “Do they have a place to park? How are going to get all the equipment in? Well, we worked with Harris County and Baytown and took Sjolander Road. There are plans to expand it from two to five lanes with a center turn lane.”

York said the company has contributed $6.9 million up front to expand the road to help get traffic off of I-10.

York said they worked with city and helped fund six new officers and three new vehicles.

York said things are moving along well and the future looks bright.

“These are just examples as we as an industry and businesses and Baytown can all work together,” York said.



An ariel view of Chevron Phillips Chemical’s $6 billion expansion project in Baytown. The project is the size of 44 football fields. The company announced in 2012 they were building a world-scale ethane cracker and plan to complete the project at the end of this year. It will produce 1.5 metric tons of ethylene per year.