



Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation Business Success Stories

HRR Enterprises Inc.

Access to raw materials, markets, and supportive local government are all positive attributes about a location in the Greater La Porte area for HRR Enterprises, Inc.

HRR Enterprises completed a new, 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art food processing facility in La Porte's Thomas Rose Industrial Park about a year and a half ago. W. Dan Tarpley, President, is especially proud of the facility, which replaces an older facility in metropolitan Chicago. Building a modern facility from the ground up in La Porte gives him an edge in a very competitive industry. There is a growing congestion problem in Chicago, and La Porte provides a lower cost location with all the market reach (Midwest to East Coast) advantages of Chicago. Sources of supply are also within easy reach of La Porte. Mr. Tarpley noted, "This [locating in La Porte] made business sense even without the incentives offered by the city."



The modern food processing industry must meet high standards of cleanliness (food safety), nutrition, and environmental management. This facility easily meets these standards, while also providing a level of efficiency not attainable at HRR's previous location. First, the plant utilizes a sophisticated mechanical process to extract meat from trimmings obtained from meat processing facilities. Second, fats and oils are extracted to produce a low fat, high protein frozen beef product that can be added to beef formulations to be used in preparation of, for example, pizza toppings, hamburgers, pure beef patties, chili, and other ground beef items. This textured beef product is not only nutritious, but reduces the cost of many meat items that consumers use. Third, the edible oils and fats are sold to various other industries, including food and soap manufacturers.



Large quantities of water are used in the production process, and wastewater treatment is a major concern. Mr. Tarpley believes that the close cooperation between the City's Wastewater Department and his staff were essential in bringing HRR Enterprises to La Porte. The Wastewater staff worked diligently to develop an approach to on site pre-treatment and transport of solid waste to the La Porte Wastewater plant that would meet stringent State and EPA requirements. This type of cooperation often is missing in a large metropolitan area in which HRR, for example, would be a relatively small player.

The HRR Inc. plant has 31 employees, and there are possibilities for expansion at the site. Mr. Tarpley also mentioned an unexpected benefit of the region--the high quality of life amenities here, such as access to Lake Michigan, a great hospital, close by shopping, the beautiful community, and the La Porte School Corporation. Another benefit experienced was the excellent access to community leaders to discuss business issues associated with locating HRR Enterprises in La Porte. This partnership establishes a solid foundation for long-term success for both HRR Enterprises and the City of La Porte.

