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Poly-America confirms plans for Chester County plant

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Poly-America Inc., a Texas-based plastics manufacturer, has confirmed plans to open a manufacturing plant in Chester County that will create 400 jobs.

The company will invest \$100 million in the plant, which will be called Poly-East.

After considering a Carolinas plant for 10 years, the company selected Chester County for the project over Lexington County, which couldn't match Chester County's incentives, says Joe Owens, Lexington County Council vice chairman.

Lexington County is west of Columbia.

"Chester gave them about a 70% tax break," Owens says. "Apparently, it's the jobs."

Hurt by textile layoffs, Chester County had a 10.6 percent unemployment rate in August, one of South Carolina's highest. Lexington County's unemployment rate is 5 percent.

Lexington County offered \$16.2 million in tax incentives over 20 years. The total of Chester County's offer wasn't available.

"We are delighted to welcome a growing, family-oriented company like Poly-America to Chester County and the Charlotte region," says Tommy Martin, chairman of the Chester County Council. "Their commitment to invest in our community and create much needed jobs is additional validation that Chester County is open for business."

Poly-America is a privately held company founded in 1976 that produces trash bags and plastic sheeting.

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