



FMC Plant Celebrates 60 Years in Bessemer City

For most long-time residents of Gaston County the FMC Corporation plant at the corner of NC 161 and South 14th Street in Bessemer City has been a mainstay of the community, forever. Few driving past the facility, give much, if any, thought to what is manufactured there, or that 200 people work in the facility.

The plant processes and ships globally an element that affects the lives of the majority of Gaston County residents – lithium. And if you’ve heard of lithium-ion batteries (and who hasn’t) you know that lithium is used for energy storage to power everything from cell phones, computer tablets and power tools, to laptops, toys and electric vehicles.

FMC’s lithium management, headquartered in Charlotte, and its Bessemer City employees, including operations, research & development, and technology, were on hand at the plant Thursday, May 1, for the special celebration. FMC Minerals President Ed Flynn, Vice President of Operations Barry Crawford, and Vice President and Global Business Director Eric Norris joined all to celebrate 60 years of operation.

Sixty years ago, construction began on the facility, marking the beginning of a long and productive presence in Bessemer City. At the time, this site near Bessemer City was the top producing lithium mine in the world. The mine has since closed but lithium processing continues.

Today the plant ships lithium products around the world for use in energy storage, polymers, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, ceramics and construction. Lithium is a vital part of the world’s mobile lifestyle and a vital part of the Gaston County economy.