

Ecolab to open distribution center in Beloit

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Ecolab is investing in a new distribution center in Beloit located at the former Southeastern Container building, 1630 Apex Drive.

The company will be leasing all of the facility's 244,000 square feet.

The Ecolab Beloit facility — roughly six miles from its South Beloit operations at 5151 E. Rockton Road — is expected to open in November, according to Jamie Tanker, external communications manager with Ecolab.

Most of the 65 associates who will work at the new Beloit facility will be current employees from nearby locations. However, five new logistics positions will be created in Beloit in early 2016.

Ecolab manufactures products for food safety, infection prevention and water management. Its products include cleaners and sanitizers and related dispensers, commercial ware washing machines and water re-use solutions. Ecolab works with businesses in more than 40 industries, such as restaurants, hotels and food and beverage processing centers.

With a new and larger warehouse in Beloit, Ecolab will consolidate logistics operations that support parts distribution from its Elk Grove Village and South Beloit locations. After it opens, Ecolab will transfer logistics operations from its Elk Grove Village and South Beloit locations to the new Beloit distribution center.

“We will continue to have operations in both Elk Grove Village and South Beloit after the transition, which will provide increased working space needed to focus on other growing operations,” Tanker said.

The Beloit distribution center will support parts distribution for Ecolab's equipment. At the site employees will handle storage, processing orders and delivering parts, equipment and product information to customers.

Southeastern Container, which employed 52 people, closed in May of 2013. The company opened in 2007 north of the Gateway Business Park, at 1630 Apex Drive. The plant was mainly responsible for creating plastic bottles for water and soft drinks, primarily for Coca-Cola.

Southeastern Container closed because of over-capacity production. Advances in technology allowed its customers to use on-site machines to meet their demand, changing the company's manufacturing footprint and causing over-production in all Southeastern Container plants.