

Company eyeing site in Beloit

By **WHITNEY HELM** Staff writer | Posted: **Wednesday, November 4, 2015 4:00 pm**

CHERRY VALLEY, Ill. — An Illinois company has its eyes on Beloit as a possible new site for business.

Evac North America, a global company with a base in Cherry Valley, Illinois, is considering leaving the state to expand its operations. The company designs and manufactures environmentally friendly wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Andrew Janke, economic development director for Beloit, said he has discussed options with the company, but could not offer further comment.

“Any time a company is considering relocating to our region, it’s a win for economic development,” said Tim Dutter, executive director of the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce. “It reinforces the efforts of the City, the GBEDC (Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation), the Chamber and the fundamental role of Rock County 5.0. It illustrates the lucrative package deals that the GBEDC and the City are able to put together, due to their successful public-private partnership. This wouldn’t be the first company to jump across the border. We’ve had recent success with our marketing efforts towards the south and we hope and plan to capitalize on those efforts. Cities and states are going to continually compete to attract and retain companies. Beloit is sitting in a prime spot to compete, physically because of our location, and economically because of our labor force, our tax incentives and an improved tool-box to work with to help land these companies. Obviously the City of Belvidere is trying to do the same thing; we’re just ahead of them in the game on this one.”

James Otterstein, Rock County’s economic development manager, said there are many reasons a company could be looking to relocate to Beloit, including key customers, real estate, labor or workforce accommodations or infrastructure needs.

“There continues to be a steady stream of business development that surfaces from the state of Illinois, representing various industry sectors,” said Otterstein. “These inquiries represent projects of all sizes.”

According to local reports, the company, which sits in the Huntwood Business Park, isn't getting some tax incentives since it is on the outskirts of the Belvidere-Boone County enterprise zone. According to the State of Illinois Comptroller's website, businesses within the enterprise zone may receive "an exemption on the retailers' occupation tax paid on building materials, and an investment tax credit of .5 percent of qualified property. Additional exemptions, such as an

expanded state sales tax exemption on purchases of personal property used or consumed in the manufacturing process or in the operation of a pollution control facility and an exemption on the state utility tax for electricity, natural gas and the Illinois Commerce Commission's administrative charge and telecommunication excise tax are available for companies that make the minimum statutory investment that either creates or retains the necessary number of jobs."

Representatives from Evac North America did not return calls on the potential move. While the Growth Dimensions Executive Director Jarid Funderburg initially agreed to an interview, he later said he had no comment on the issue. Growth Dimensions is an economic development group for Belvidere-Boone County.

Recently Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner expressed support for the company and its more than 35 years in northern Illinois, according to the company's website.