

ConAgra Foods leases part of Alcoa building

By HILLARY GAVAN Beloit Daily News | Posted: Thursday, December 10, 2015 4:00 pm

BELOIT — A third tenant has moved into the former Alcoa site.

ConAgra Foods is leasing 140,000 square feet of space at the former Alcoa building at 1 Reynolds Drive, according to Beloit Economic Development Director Andrew Janke. He said a third tenant is outstanding news for Beloit.

“The present owners completely renovated the entire building internally and externally. Their ability to attract these two significant tenants is a move in the right direction,” Janke said.

The Alcoa site is also home to South Beloit snack food maker Axium Foods, which is leasing 110,000 square feet for warehousing and distribution in Building 40.

Building 10, or the far eastern building, has a total of 143,000 square feet with A.M. Castle currently renting out 50,000 square feet of it for storage and training. A.M. Castle’s lease will expire at the end of this month.

The lease, at what is known as Building 20, began this summer, with ConAgra’s space being used for warehousing and distribution.

The Alcoa site includes a total of five buildings, three parking lots and several truck loading docks.

Kaiser Property Group, a real estate development business, purchased the building at 1 Reynolds Drive in December of 2009. Its goal has been to fix it up and find a buyer who could bring hundreds of new jobs to Beloit.

Kaiser Property Group purchased the facility from Alcoa Aluminum Deutschland Inc. Alcoa told its employees in December 2008 that it would end production at the Beloit wheel plant by May, putting about 250 employees out of work. The plant produced aluminum wheels for the auto industry.

Alcoa leased from the company until the end of July of 2010. Then in October of 2010 the company initiated its redevelopment at the property.

In June the ConAgra Foods cookie plant in South Beloit requested a 10-year property tax abatement in conjunction with a \$15 million expansion for its property at 1450 Pate Plaza Drive.

ConAgra Foods announced in May that it was closing its cookie plant on the west side of Ripon, Wis., and it planned to move some of its production from the Ripon plant to the South Beloit facility.

In a June interview, ConAgra Foods spokesperson Daniel Hare, said the company anticipated adding about 150 positions in South Beloit. He anticipated improvements to the South Beloit facility would be complete by the end of May of 2016. As of June the South Beloit ConAgra Foods plant, which formerly was Bremner Foods, employed 210 people.