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\$100M plastics plant planned for Chester County

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Poly-America Inc., a Texas-based plastics manufacturer, is expected to build a \$100 million, 400-employee plant along Interstate 77 in Chester County.

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, S.C.

"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.

A company representative and a Chester County spokesman were unavailable for comment.

Poly-America is trying to sell a 105-acre Lexington County tract at Interstate 26 and I-77, which it has owned since 1996.

The privately held company, founded in 1976, produces trash bags and plastic sheeting.

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