

Project leader Wayne Zink prepares for the manufacture of a potent pharmaceutical compound.



Evonik Tippecanoe Laboratories

CHANGING – AND SAVING – LIVES

Address: 1650 Lilly Road, Lafayette
Telephone: (765) 477-4300
Web site: www.evonik.com
Management: Clive Whiteside, vice president and site manager
Employees: Approximately 525 at Lafayette facility

What they do:

Evonik Industries offers customized products for the medical sector.

The German-based company was formally established in 2007, but a variety of predecessor companies built a foundation of success over the past 150 years. Today, it has a presence in over 100 countries and employs approximately 33,000.

Tippecanoe Laboratories manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients, which are the combination of ingredients (or a single ingredient) that lead to the desired therapeutic result in a prescription drug.

Evonik purchased Tippecanoe Laboratories – which spans approximately 2,500 acres and houses 125 buildings, farm land and wildlife habitat – from Eli Lilly and Company in 2010.

“We understood how important Indiana has been to the pharmaceutical industry, and we wanted to become involved,” Whiteside shares. “It was an exciting acquisition for Evonik because it significantly increased our presence in the active pharmaceutical ingredient business.”

‘We’re a big family – a safe family’:

Safety drives the company culture.

Tippecanoe Laboratories marked five million hours without a lost-time accident by hosting a two-day celebration. The festivities included a gift for all employees – a fire extinguisher to serve as a reminder

of their accomplishment and motivation to continue the outstanding work.

Whiteside notes that the company promotes family and fun.

“All of us pull in the same direction,” he comments. “It’s extremely satisfying to have a high-quality workforce – a group of individuals who care for each other and are committed to each other and to the company.”

Stepping out of the lab:

Evonik’s Partners In Education program has funded more than 350 projects since it was established in 1996.

“Our students today are the scientists and researchers of tomorrow,” Whiteside asserts.

He stresses that volunteering helps employees develop leadership skills, which ultimately can boost productivity.

Plus, it sends a positive message.

“Customers want to know how you’re making the world a better place. Companies that encourage community involvement distinguish themselves from others,” Whiteside contends.

Evonik helped Tippecanoe School Corporation relocate 950-plus students in the aftermath of devastating tornadoes last year with a \$10,000 donation.

“The tornado affected some of our employees and their children, so we wanted to do something,”

By Symone C. Skrzycki

Whiteside recalls. “One of our employees sent me a note afterwards. He said that he doesn’t have any children in the school system anymore, but told me he was proud to be part of a company that cares for the community and is able to provide this type of support.”

Beholding nature:

Have you heard of Swallowtails, Gossamer-wing and Brush-footed butterflies? They’re among the various species that have been spotted at the annual Tippecanoe County Butterfly Encounter, which is sponsored by Evonik and the Department of Entomology at Purdue University.

The celebration takes place at Evonik’s Wildlife Habitat, and features camaraderie, insights from entomologists and a butterfly count.

Rallying the troops:

Paul Barrick, a utilities specialist, has been with the company for 15 years. His father retired from the plant after 28 years of service.

He values leadership’s transparency.

“It’s a very interesting business,” Barrick reflects. “I worked in manufacturing for Lilly and then transferred to the utilities department. Evonik keeps us informed when we win large contracts and also tells us what we need to do to compete.”

Customer service representative Matt Koehler began working at Evonik 35 years ago as a janitor.

“I stayed with the company because it’s a great place to work,” he emphasizes. “If you have ideas that are outside the box, Evonik is willing to listen to you. Everybody works toward the same goal – to generate a quality product that improves the lives of people.”

Whiteside declares, “We are very proud to be part of the Lafayette community. We strongly believe there is a great future here for our business – and for the employees of Evonik Tippecanoe Laboratories.”



Dr. Javier Gonzalez, project manager-innovation management, discusses sampling techniques for a new reaction with senior lab specialist Jo Yoder. Meanwhile, associate senior chemist Dr. Qimin Li prepares samples for the next step in a manufacturing process.

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