

U.S. Department of Energy: Faces of the Recovery Act: Johnson Controls Inc.

Elizabeth Rolinski: I was in this plant when it first started up; I was plant manager here many years ago, and, and then unfortunately when it came time to close the plant, I also did that plant announcement. It's a team I knew very well, a team I was with for a lot of years so when the time came and the decision was made to close the plant it was a very emotional event for me.

[In August 2009, President Obama announced \$2.4 billion in Recovery Act grants for advanced vehicle battery technology. Johnson Control Inc. was selected to receive \$300 million...to open its plant in Holland Michigan]

Ray Shemanski: When we were looking for our locations for the next facility we had a number of them in mind, including a lot of the locations overseas. The real enabler to us putting this facility in Michigan was the grant award that we received through the Recovery Act along with combined incentives from Michigan.

Elizabeth Rolinski: The Recovery Act really does give a lot of hope for those, those people that want to come back to the community, whether they were graduates that didn't have jobs or they moved to find a job but they're going to be able to come back.

Ray Shemanski: In 2010 our company will celebrate our 125th anniversary; in our automotive business we supply seats and interior products; in our battery business the odds are, if you in North America anyways, that battery is from Johnson Controls. Your led acid battery is primarily used to start your vehicle, light the lights, but in the future, the battery is going to be the drive train of your vehicle, your internal combustion engine will potentially disappear and be replaced with a battery pack that is the power source within your vehicle. The United States has gotta electrify their vehicle network in order to help reduce the amount of seal to emissions that are globally going into the atmosphere.

Elizabeth Rolinski: Were going to need an extremely high performing team, were going to need to bring in the culture that we want to have.

Ray Shemanski: Today there's not one of these built in the United States and our vision with this plant is that we get to the point where we're building 15 million cells in this facility at an annual basis.

Elizabeth Rolinski: The project right now, what you're going to see at Meadowbrook is an empty plant because there's the four or five of us starting to come together and we've been in the design phase so that means what has to happen to the building; how it is going to be laid out.

Where we are standing right now is where our pack assembly is going to come in and that's the first part of our process so actually that is coming in very soon. We're going to have equipment and materials coming into the dock doors right here so we have to get that ready. Just recently been writing the [text] for the equipment....

Ray Shemanski: I had a discussion with Elizabeth a minute ago and she says everyday she gets a number of calls; there's just a buzz in the community right now.

Elizabeth Rolinski: So to come back now and open this plant and have some of the same people calling, and very interested in coming back and excited about the opportunity is an emotional event for me and is just a huge deal for all those people in the community as well.

"Do you guys in your math classes yet ever have a math problem that is so long you might not get the right answer but you might get partial credit?"

You know, for those kids that are sitting there, those those cub scouts and their talking about pollution and their talking about ya know \$4 a gallon gas prices, the evolution they're going to see is very likely in the transportation industry. You know we don't want the kids to, to grow up and leave the community necessarily; we want them to grow up get a good technical basic and support the industries here and were going to need them. It seems like it's a long ways away for cub scouts but it goes so fast.