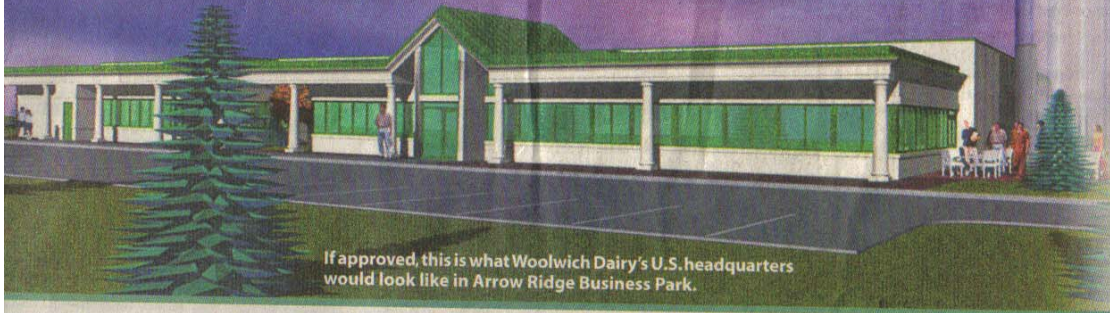


Woolwich Dairy project plans continue to move forward



If approved, this is what Woolwich Dairy's U.S. headquarters would look like in Arrow Ridge Business Park.

On Monday, March 12, there is only one thing on the Lancaster Plan Commission agenda, a project that will move forward with the anchor building for the Arrow Ridge Business Park, and will be an item that will be on many city meeting agendas this spring as Woolwich Dairy continues to move forward with its plans to build a goat cheese factory in Lancaster's new business park.

Monday's plan commission meeting will be to approve the site plan for the 28,000 square-foot facility that will be located on the east side of the city, a facility that will employ 25-30 people when it begins operation in 2008. The plan has continued to move forward since it was announced last summer, but things will really take shape in the next few months.

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Woolwich plans continue to progress in Lancaster

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A week after plan commission meeting, the city council will review formally approving the sale of the 5.2 acres in the business park for the project, and will at future meetings, approve a developer's agreement and sewer use permit for the plant.

City Administrator Scot Simpson said that the process working with Woolwich has been a relatively smooth one, and the company has been following all of the rules adopted by the city for projects in Arrow Ridge. In rules adopted last year, the city is requiring an amount of any property to be set aside for greenspace, and is also requiring a portion of the building's façade to be made up of materials like steel, glass, brick, or textured concrete. From the sketches and computer-generated renderings of the building, Simpson noted that Woolwich has gone beyond the business park rules.

"I think it will be a great anchor tenant," Simpson noted.

As part of the development process, the city will create a sewer use permit for Woolwich to cover wastewater from the plant. Unlike simply connecting the plant to the wastewater system, the permit will require Woolwich to handle its waste in a certain manner, monitoring load levels like BODs, or biowaste that is elevated in most dairy operations. Simpson said that with the new plant, waste will be handled more efficiently, and there will be less than a 10 percent increase in the

city's BOD levels. "Woolwich has been very cooperative," Simpson noted.

Simpson has been pleased by the response by Woolwich, which is one of the top goat cheese producers in North America. Originally slated to be a 20,000 square-foot operation, the plant has been expanded to another 8,000 square feet, and will initially employ 10 people more than originally planned. And Simpson noted that Woolwich doesn't plan to stop at 30. "They are hoping that it will be a 100-man operation in no time."

He was also pleased

they took other steps the city did not even consider, such as purchasing a home for corporate officers to stay in during the monthly trips to the plant.

Simpson looks forward to when the city can point to the first building in the business park, which he hopes will spur businesses already looking at Lancaster. "With a subdivision, it's a lot different once you get that first house in there. Before now, we have been showing people a cornfield. We will have gone, in 24 months, from that cornfield to a developed business park and a tenant."