

## Dow updates college board on Texas Operations projects

By ALAN NIESCHWIETZ | Posted: Thursday, December 15, 2011 2:00 am

**LAKE JACKSON** — Brazosport College regents received an update from Dow Chemical Co. about the status of several projects approved or being sought for expansion of the company's Texas Operations site.

“Basically, it was an informative presentation about some Dow growth projects,” company spokesman Dave Winder said of Monday's presentation.

“We've been meeting with various stakeholders to keep them up to date,” he said.

Those projects and possible

projects were announced by the company in April, he said.

Two projects definitely coming to Freeport are new facilities slated to come online and producing propylene in four years and ethylene in five years, Winder said. But those might not be the only plants coming to Texas Operations.

Texas Operations is competing with a Dow site in Plaquemine, La., for a second ethylene cracking facility, Winders said. Should the company decide to place that facility in Freeport, the investment would be in the billions of dollars and would result in hundreds of new, permanent jobs, he said.

Also at the meeting, it was announced the Community Education department will have an open house Jan. 19 at its new facility on the main campus.

“We've completely renovated and remodeled the B Wing and it's all theirs,” college spokeswoman Patty Sayes said.

Formerly housed in a strip mall in downtown Lake Jackson, the department was able to move back on campus thanks to an expansion financed by the \$70 million bond voters approved in 2007, she said.

The college intends to keep one of its Community Education satellite campuses in operation, Sayes said.

“We're committed to keeping our Freeport location open,” she said. “It's a very busy location.”

*Alan Nieschwietz covers Brazosport College for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0151.*