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Sealed Air picks Greenville for new center
Consolidation of North American customer service offices will open 100-150 jobs here

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Sealed Air Corp. said Monday it would increase its already sizeable work force in the Upstate by adding a customer service center in Greenville County that would employ between 100 and 150.

The plastic packaging manufacturer said it would consolidate more than 20 customer service operations across the United States and Canada to create the new center by the end of 2008.

The company already employs more than 2,500 at facilities in Duncan, Simpsonville and Seneca.

Chip Cook, vice president of customer service at Sealed Air, said 20 percent to 30 percent of the new center's work force would come from an existing customer service operation at the company's complex in Duncan. The remainder would transfer from other operations around North America or be hired locally, he said.



Advertisement "We expect we'll have more hired locally than transferred in," Cook said.

Sealed Air is consolidating its customer service operations in North America to create a "comprehensive, simpler, more-efficient organization to make it easier for our customers to do business with us," he said.

Sealed Air chose Greenville because "it offers an ideal place for our employees to live and work, and it is a competitive area to operate a business," Cook said.

Sealed Air plans to put the center in a new office building at the Independence Corporate Park at the intersection of Interstates 85 and 385.

Cook wouldn't say how much the jobs would pay, but he said they'd be full-time jobs with a benefits package.

He said Sealed Air considered various locations in the Charlotte and Upstate areas -- including the company's existing complex in Duncan -- before settling on the office park in the Greenville suburbs.

Sealed Air wanted the center to be at a different location than its existing operations because it "wanted to create a new culture for customer service."

From the Independence Corporate Park, the center's employees will be minutes away from Sealed Air's Duncan complex on I-85 and minutes away from its Simpsonville plant on I-385, Cook said.

Elmwood Park, N.J.-based Sealed Air's products include Bubble Wrap and Cryovac-brand food packaging. Customers include industries of various kinds, major meat processors and office supply chains. The company collected more than \$4.3 billion in revenues during 2006.

Cook said the building that Sealed Air picked for the new center "offered the best cost value and amenities for our employees."

The 82,500-square-foot brick building is still under construction, but the job will be finished next week, said Bogue Wallin, a vice president with Liberty Property Trust, owner of Independence Corporate Park.
