The Paulsboro Refinery has been a major employer in Gloucester County for more than 100 years and supported generations of families throughout our region. With 475 employees and an additional 300 contractors on an average daily basis, it is poised to remain that way well into the future.

The refinery processes a variety of crude oils to produce gasoline, home heating oil and jet fuel. Many of the jets people see flying overhead from the Philadelphia International Airport are fueled in some ways by the refinery. It also manufactures Group 1 lubricant base oils, as well as asphalt. It sells fuels into bulk distribution that is marketed throughout the northeast and it sells base lubricants around the world.

With the expansion of the NJ Turnpike and other infrastructure improvements, the Paulsboro Refinery has become the largest asphalt producer on the east coast. “With increases in motor fuels taxes in New Jersey, the State DOT (Department of Transportation) is expected to further expand infrastructure spending,” said Kristi Moore, community relations specialist for the Paulsboro Refining Company, LLC, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PBF Energy Inc. As such, the official said refinery management anticipates a robust economy ahead for asphalt sales.

Throughout its history, the refinery has had to maintain its competitive edge by adjusting to market forces as well as changes in regulations and technology. One of the most recent changes was to ensure it complies with MARPOL, Marine Pollution regulations. These protections are designed to reduce the sulfur content in marine fuel used by container ships, tankers and other vessels.

“The Paulsboro Refinery is better situated to meet the new standards than some of our competitors. Although we do not produce marine fuels today, we can modify our equipment to make products...
that meet the new lower sulfur specifications,” said Moore, community relations specialist for the Paulsboro Refining Company LLC, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PBF Energy Inc.

Other trends the refinery is addressing are the coming changes anticipated with higher-compression engines, which will meet higher federal CAFE (corporate average fuel economy). These engines will require higher octane gasoline than what is currently required, the result of which will require large investments across the entire fuel supply chain. The refinery is analyzing its strategies to comply and remain competitive in the marketplace, Moore said.

EMPLOYING THE NEXT GENERATION

Unlike bygone eras, the refinery is growing more reliant on a well-prepared workforce for the work it does. In previous generations, a person could graduate from Paulsboro High School and walk into the refinery and get a job. The equipment and processing that goes on at the refinery now requires a greater level of skill, Moore said.

The refinery has aggressive programs to educate and train people interested in a career with Paulsboro Refinery to address this.

“Through our partnership with Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC), we have established a Process Technology program. Graduates from the two-year program have the skills and knowledge to work in manufacturing facilities, such as refineries, chemical, power and pharmaceutical plants. We also recruit co-ops and interns from Rowan, Drexel (Pa.), and Williamson School of Trades (Pa.) to work at the refinery, and we often hire them,” she said.

Being a good corporate neighbor is important for the company, Moore said. It does not take much encouragement for its employees to give back to the community, she added.

“We are proud of our relationship with the United Way of Gloucester County. Every year our employees and business partners participate in a fundraising campaign. Contributions from last year’s campaign exceeded $360,000,” she said.

Moore also said civic participation is big on the list for many employees.

“Our employees actively participate in a variety of committees and regularly support and attend a variety of community functions. It is our belief that being a good neighbor requires being involved in the community,” she said.

PAULSBORO REFINERY PRODUCTION

In one year the refinery produces:
- Gasoline to fill up 84 million cars.
- Diesel to refuel one million trucks.
- Jet fuel to fill 225 thousand jets.
- Heating oil to warm over 2 million homes.
- Lube oil for 126 million oil changes.
- Asphalt to pave a four-lane highway, three inches thick from Philadelphia to Los Angeles.