

Smucker Files Third \$16 Million Permit

The J.M. Smucker Co. has filed a third \$16 million permit with the city-county Office of Construction Code Enforcement as part of its planned plant expansion at 4789 Cromwell Ave. in Oakhaven.

No contractor or architect was listed on the permit, which is the third in Smucker's plan to invest \$41 million to upgrade its peanut butter production lines. The Orrville, Ohio-based company filed a \$16 million permit at the end of January and also one in March.

The Economic Development Growth Engine of Memphis and Shelby County in mid-January unanimously granted Smucker an amended payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement for 15 years on personal property and 13 years on real property.

In addition to 42 new positions, which will have an average wage of \$52,545, created through the expansion, Smucker will maintain its existing 61 employees.

The approved tax freeze will save Smucker \$13 million, but the company will still pay an estimated \$16.2 million in taxes to the city and county over the length of the PILOT. The company said 25 percent of its planned \$21.5 million in discretionary spending will be with women- and minority-owned businesses.

Source: The Daily News Online & Chandler Reports