

Graycor holds groundbreaking for new building

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A rendering of the new Graycor building at AmeriPlex at the Port. Construction on the 44,000-square-foot building should begin later this month, officials said.

PORTAGE | It was cold and blustery Thursday morning, but officials from Graycor Industrial Constructors, AmeriPlex at the Port and the city didn't seem to mind.

They celebrated, at least briefly, the coming construction of the 44,000-square-foot Graycor office building and equipment storage yard by taking turns wearing hard hats and holding shovels, posing for photographs at the company's new location.

Construction should begin sometime this month, Graycor Industrial President Brad Teckenbrock said.

The new facility will consolidate a fabrication shop currently located in Gary, a shop in Chicago and small office already at the industrial park. The Portage site won out after the company approached both Hobart and Portage about the new facility.

Teckenbrock said "it was a very tough decision" choosing between the two communities, but the site layout and access at the Portage site were the tipping factors.

Tim Healy, senior vice president of AmeriPlex, said his company's construction group will build the \$5 million facility and Graycor will build out the interior of the building.

"Today is a good day," Healy said, adding the groundbreaking marks more than 2.5 million square feet of facilities at the approximate 360-acre park and \$150 million in construction investment since the park began about a decade ago.

"We have about 100 acres left to go between industrial and commercial retail. We just need the economy to pick up and we'll get rolling again," Healy said.

"This means jobs for our community. That is something our citizens need, the community needs. Graycor has communicated to us they plan a long, prosperous relationship with the community," Portage Mayor Olga Velazquez said.

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