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Defiance, Ohio

More work coming to Defiance

Spokesman says announcements this week will positively affect five U.S. GM plants

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More work for Defiance's Powertrain workers is on the way with General Motors announcing a plan to produce more fuel-efficient engines at five of its plants, including Defiance.

The work is part of a "corporate investment to produce more fuel-efficient engines,"

said GM spokesman Sharon Basel from her Detroit office.

Details of the plans are expected to be released later this week, however, Basel confirmed this morning that the Defiance plant is involved in the announcements that will positively affect the five U.S. GM plants.

The first announcement



was made Tuesday when GM said it will invest \$63 million in Saginaw, Mich., for a new casting plant to produce cylinder heads for 3.6-liter, high-feature V-6 engines.

Construction in Saginaw is set to begin in spring 2009 to do plant renovations and install new tooling and machinery. The project is expected to be

completed at the start of 2011.

Other plants involved in the new technology to produce the new engines, Basel said, are in Indiana, Ohio and New York.

New jobs are not likely to be part of the announcement, however, Basel said, "there is almost always job retention." About 1,550 people work at the Defiance plant.

Calls to Defiance plant manager John Thomas and UAW

Local 211 president Dwight Chatham this morning for comment were not immediately returned.

During a visit earlier this month by Ron Pniewski, GM North America and global portfolio planning vice president, the top executive eluded to announcements for a few new work contracts for the Defiance plant could be made in the near future.

Continue to check *The Crescent-News Online* for any updates on the Defiance Powertrain plant. On the Internet, visit www.crescent-news.com or General Motors at www.gm.com