penalty ever assessed under the Clean to Allegheny County, Pa.

VIDA Approves Plans For Ben & Jerry's Plant

STOWE — The Vermont Industrial Development Authority gave preliminary approval Friday for Ben & Jerry's ice cream to use $2.5 million in industrial revenue bonds to build a new manufacturing plant in Waterbury or Essex.

Company officials said this week they would decide on a site in early April. The Waterbury land is just off Interstate 89; the Essex location is off Sand Hill Road in a former ski boot manufacturing plant, said Robert C. Kaphan, VIDA executive director.

The company wants a 25,000-square-foot plant capable of producing 3 million gallons of ice cream a year, versus the 750,000 gallons currently produced at its South Burlington plant. The company could employ 70 at the end of a five-year expansion compared to the current 20 workers.

Company officials have said they would pick Waterbury if they are able to buy land next to the site on which they have an option. They hope to have enough space to allow tourists to watch ice cream being made.

In other action, VIDA gave preliminary approval to Plastic Monofil Co. of Colchester to use $750,000 in industrial revenue bonds for a move to the Catamount Industrial Park in Milton. The firm would buy 3.3 acres, take an option on another 3.24 acres and build a 25,000-square-foot plant, according to a news release from the Greater Burlington Industrial Corp.

The 12-year-old company makes synthetic fiber products for the furniture and bedding industry. The building and new machinery would allow the work force to grow from the current 23 to 35 in two years, the release said.

VIDA approved a $131,000 loan at 4 percent interest to Villanti & Sons Printers of South Burlington for the purchase of a 21,000-square-foot building on Industrial Avenue in Williston. The company has been in a 7,000-square-foot building off Williston Road for 12 years.

The company, which does commercial printing, expects to expand its staff of 33 to 38 this year, the release said.

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