CONVENT TO GET FREEPORT PLANT

Huge Phosphate Complex Planned on East Bank

By JOSEPH A. LUCIA

LUTCHER, La. — The Freeport Sulphur Co., Tuesday night announced it will build a $50 million phosphate chemical complex on the East Bank of the Mississippi River near Convent.

The 75-acre site, in St. James Parish, is 10 miles upriver from here and approximately 55 miles above New Orleans.

Announcement of the new fertilizer facility was made by Raymond H. Feierabend, Freeport vice-president, at a banquet at the Public Relations building here.

LARGE ACID PLANT

Feierabend, who is in charge of the project said facilities will include one of the world’s largest installations for production of phosphoric acid and sulphuric acid.

He said a new operating division, Freeport Chemical Co., will be formed to construct and operate the facility.

Initial production is scheduled for mid-1968.

Feierabend said the new plant, to be built on the site of what was formerly Uncle Sam Plantation, will employ about 275 persons and will have an annual payroll of more than $2 million.

Phosphoric acid is a primary ingredient in the manufacture of various phosphate fertilizers. It is also used directly as a fertilizer. Most of the output of the plant will be shipped to major fertilizer manufacturers in Louisiana.

PHOSPHATE ROCK

Phosphate rock feed for the plant will be shipped here by ocean going carriers from central Florida suppliers, Feierabend said.

He said the brownish sandy material will be stored wet at the plant until ready for processing.

Sulphur to make the sulphuric acid, he said, will be barged upriver from Port Sulphur, the company’s storage and shipping point on the Mississippi River below New Orleans.

In addition to the phosphoric and sulphuric acid plants the complex will include shops, a power plant, offices and loading and unloading facilities.

A 600-foot long dock will be built to accommodate barges and ocean going vessels. It will be possible to unload phosphate rock and sulphur and to load phosphoric acid barges simultaneously, Feierabend said.

‘WET PROCESS’

He said the plant will use the "wet process" to produce phos-

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