

HONORING OUR HERITAGE

Plant Construction 1952-1956

TIMELINE

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010



The August 12, 1952, edition of an area newspaper announces the site's selection.

It is 1952 and with the onset of the Cold War, national security tensions are mounting, leading to a massive expansion of the country's atomic weapons capabilities.

United States President Harry Truman signs a bill appropriating funds for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to construct a new plant to increase the production of Uranium-235 (U-235), the fissionable material necessary for atomic bombs and warheads.



Later that year, the AEC chooses a 3,800-acre area in southern Pike County, Ohio as the site of a third Gaseous Diffusion Plant to support the ongoing operations at similar plants in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Paducah, Kentucky. The contract to construct the plant is awarded to Peter Kiewit Sons Construction Company of Nebraska. AEC chooses Goodyear Tire and Rubber Corporation of Akron, Ohio, as the plant operator and the

Goodyear Atomic Corporation is created.

Construction numbers for the plant included:

- 100,000 tons of structural steel;
- 500,000 cubic yards of concrete;
- 100,000 pipe assemblies;
- 1,000 miles of copper tubing.



1953 Plant Control Facility X-300 construction



February 13, 1953 The site before construction begins



1953 Excavation



1954 Supervisor training



1954 Process building construction



1954 X-333 construction



1955 Supervisors and stenographers for Grinnell Corporation



1953 Plant security



1953 Workers wait outside the pay wagon for their wages



1955 Workers leaving for the day



1954 Safety meeting



1954 Interior view of X-300 Plant Control Facility



1950's Rising steam indicates plant operations have begun

