



## Tobin Development Corporation

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**Post-Tribune**

February 18, 2010

### **BP New Tenant for Ameriplex**

By Teresa Auch Schultz

BP is renting out one of the largest warehouses in Northwest Indiana for its Whiting refinery expansion project, according to a news release from the Northwest Indiana Forum.

The company is moving some work to a 574,000-square-foot building in the Ameriplex in Portage, which had been built on speculation.

A representative for BP did not return calls and the release did not provide details on what BP plans on doing with the building or how it would be connected with the modernization project at the Whiting refinery. Tom Keilman, director of public affairs for BP, did say in the release that the company liked the building's location and nearness to the Whiting plant and transportation.

The release said that the building is the largest one built on speculation in the region.

Getting it rented out means that the area can now show other developers that facilities built on speculation can be a worthwhile investment, said Christopher Stidham, executive director of the Portage Economic Development Corp.

Stidham said he often hears from companies that want buildings ready so they can move in immediately, but the region has few of these.

"So I think this will help builders take that risk," he said.

He added that BP coming to Portage is good for the city, especially because of the recent economic recession.

Stidham said he believes the building was constructed about a year and a half ago and that BP is the first tenant. The building was developed by TCB Development/Tobin Development. Kevin Tobin, head of Tobin Development, said in the release that he appreciated the region's advantages in logistics and business, calling them superior to Will County in Illinois.