

Everything you wanted to know about oil but were afraid to ask



Or

Oil for Dummies

by Doug Maurstad

How big is Humongous?

I've been thinking about this Hyperion project and try to picture in my mind, just how big some parts of this refinery is going to be. Let me give you my definition of what I think is humongous.

In the Hyperion application it states that they will need 4500 workers for a minimum of 4 years, with a maximum of 8000 peaking at about the 3rd year of construction. All the communities in this area especially Elk Point is under the assumption that their towns will grow because of the workers.

I think it is time for Elk Point to put its money where its mouth is. Does Elk Point have adequate housing for the Hyperion workers? Is Elk Point going to build housing knowing that in 3-4 years it will be empty? No, No, and No!

But here is the kicker. What community is going to build housing and rent it out knowing that the lifespan of the facility is 4 or 5 years then it will be empty. Does this mean the town is going to grow? All it means is that the population is going to increase, but isn't going to grow. That sounds like an oxymoron, but I would be willing to bet my paycheck that Elk Point doesn't have the capability to add 100 people to rent homes in Elk Point. I am picking on Elk Point, because they seem to be the ones clamoring the loudest about increased economic development and growth.

Hyperion says in its application that it is going to build facilities to house the workers. It says in their plan that they will build a facility to house the workers, security, EMT's, and supervisory personnel. Now this is where the word Humongous comes in. they are going to build a city folks. Not just a little city, they are going to build a city 3 times the size of Elk Point. This city would be the largest city in Union County. Hyperion changed its application from mobile homes to modular. The change to modular allows them to build Motels. Now for the number, (here comes my famous word) to house 4500+ workers it will take 45 Humongous motels. Now don't forget the amenities such as Parking, laundry, restaurants, entertainment centers, yaddi yaddi yadda. One cannot expect the workers to just work, go home, and go to work.

What about 3 years down the road when the production gets to 8000 workers? Now we really have problems. I'm glad I'm not in the logistics business, because this is becoming a headache. A Humongous headache.

Hyperion says in their application, that these will be housed in the industrial zone. I have looked at their map with a fine-tooth comb, and I do not see anywhere in their map with enough space set aside to build a site to house 4500 men, women and children. Remember,

we are talking about something 3 times the size of Elk Point, so it is hard to hide, but I don't see it.

Now, Back to the Humongus facility at Hyperion. We have 45 motels to take care of the housing needs. What about sanitary conditions? They have to build water and waste treatment for them. Look at the size of the sanitary lagoon in Elk Point. Then triple it. Somewhere in this industrial area we now have a sewage treatment facility to handle the 4500+ workers and their families. This is getting to be like the game the kids have today called SIM City. We start with nothing, and build a city, making sure we don't overlook anything.

Remember folks, the application says the facility will be self sufficient, so does that mean they are going to build a restaurant(s) for them to eat in? Or will these workers cook in their rooms? It will be one Humongus Resturant, because it is going to have to operate round the clock, because the construction is going to be round the clock. How many of you gentlemen out there remember basic training in the service? B I N G O! We are right back to a basic training facility. 45 barracks with five chow halls. These men are construction workers, and I'm here to tell you they will be hungry. None of this sandwich and coffee stuff, they want steak and potatoes. My guess would be that people being the enterprising people that they are, will come along and build a couple of fast food joints. McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Subway.

These 100 delivery trucks a day have to have somewhere to eat don't they. Oh by the way, it is not 100 delivery trucks a day, it is 100 trucks a day in and 100 trucks a day out. A total of 200 trucks. That is one truck every 7 minutes 24 hours a day. Truckers need a place to park their rigs overnight, so now we need a truck stop. I think that has been taken care of. Someone from Colorado is supposed to have bought the O'Connor ground up at the Spink exit, and is going to put in a Truck Stop with overnight parking, eating, gas up the truck, etc.

Don't forget the cars from the people working in and about the refinery. According to Hyperion, "Local First" is their theme, so here come 1800 cars a day to and through the refinery. So now we have 1800 cars, 200 trucks and oh yeah, the trains. That puts icing on the cake doesn't it? The only thing we are lacking is airplanes. Then the cycle would be complete.

Use your imagination here and I'm sure you can add things to this list that I haven't even thought of. This is like a cancer. It grows, grows, and grows.

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