

MIDDLETOWN JOURNAL

AK Steel OKs deal for \$340 million plant

Staff Report

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WEST CHESTER — AK Steel said Monday, March 24, that it has approved a pact with SunCoke Energy Inc. that could lead to SunCoke building a \$340 million coke and electrical plant in Middletown.

The supply contract approved by AK Steel's board calls for SunCoke to provide AK Steel with metallurgical-grade coke and electrical power for 20 years.

The proposed plant would be built, owned and operated by SunCoke Energy. AK Steel executives in a news release said the project would generate hundreds of temporary construction jobs as well as 75 permanent operating and maintenance jobs. The plant would stand adjacent to AK Steel's Middletown Works plant.

AK Steel said the deal is contingent on SunCoke receiving the local, state and federal approvals and permits and economic incentives it needs to build and operate the facility.

The proposed heat-recovery coke battery plant would be capable of producing about 550,000 tons of coke, and 50 megawatts of electrical power annually, the news release stated.

AK Steel said it operates coke batteries in Middletown and Ashland, Ky., but must purchase about 25 percent of its annual coke requirements on the open market.

AK Steel said it has no plans to idle any of its existing coke-production facilities if the proposed SunCoke project is consummated.

<http://www.journal-news.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2008/03/25/mj032508aksteel.html>