

# Norco to 'Harvest the Sky' at New Moses Lake Plant



Norco's proposed air separation plant in Moses Lake, Wash., will resemble the existing plant, shown above, built in 2002 in Nampa, Idaho.

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MOSES LAKE, Wash. — Norco Inc., a privately held producer and distributor of industrial gases, will construct a state-of-the-art air separation plant on a 10-acre site at Wheeler Road and Road "N," CEO Jim Kissler announced today.

"We 'harvest the sky,' separating air into oxygen, nitrogen and argon," Kissler explained. These gases will then be used to supply Norco's 30,000 customers in the Northwest.

From three to five workers will operate the plant, which also will serve as the distribution hub for up to 20 long-haul truck drivers, Kissler said.

Kissler and Norco President Ned Pontious credited the Grant County Economic Development Council with playing a major role in their selection of the Moses Lake site.

"Executive Director Terry Brewer served as our eyes and ears while we were considering Moses Lake and three other locations," Pontious said. "He set up meetings with the landowner and facilitated introductions with public officials and the Grant County Public Utility District.

"In the end we selected Moses Lake because of its good access to highways, reliable source of electricity, and the cooperative local government and business community. We look forward to being here," he added.

The plant is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2009. It will be similar to Norco's existing plant in Nampa, Idaho, which was constructed in 2002.

"We expect that the completion of our plant will be a stimulus for companies that rely on industrial gases to locate in the



Howard Briggs, right, air separation plant manager for Norco, Inc. in Nampa, Idaho, helps Sean Welch, senior plant operator, fill a liquid nitrogen trailer. Norco's new plant, to be built in Moses Lake, Wash., will serve as the distribution center for up to 20 long-haul truck drivers.

Moses Lake area," Pontious said.

For example, he explained, food-processing companies use nitrogen in freezing their products, and steel fabrication companies use argon as a cover gas for welding. Hospitals and medical offices need reliable sources of oxygen, as do home health care patients.

"We are excited to welcome Norco to Grant County," said Brewer. "The company has been great to work with and they are committed to giving back to the community. Their presence here will diversify our economy and make us a more competitive place for businesses to locate."

Norco, through the Kissler Family Foundation, has donated more than \$3 million over the past five years to nonprofits in the six states where it operates.



Norco, Inc. is a privately held producer and distributor of industrial gases. A family-owned company for more than 58 years, Norco has 42 locations in six states and serves a wide range of customers in the gases, welding equipment, home care, medical and safety equipment businesses. Headquarters are in Boise, Idaho.