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Enfield's land swap deal with Eppendorf gets council's OK

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ENFIELD — A land swap between the town and Eppendorf Manufacturing Corp. that supporters hope will lead to about 100 new jobs won unanimous approval Tuesday from the Town Council.

Under the deal, the town would give Eppendorf 9.3 acres it owns north of its current site on Freshwater Boulevard. In exchange, the town will gain 9.3 acres of former Eppendorf land to combine with property it owns to the south.

"It's very encouraging news that Eppendorf wants to stay and expand in Enfield," Mayor Scott R. Kaupin said.

The company hopes to add a 132,000-square-foot addition for production and office space, town documents say. It would add about 100 new jobs, Town Manager Matthew Coppler said.

Eppendorf operates a 192,000-square-foot building on its 25.1-acre site at 175 Freshwater Boulevard. The company makes plastics products for medical and laboratory use. It bought the land in 2004, and the plan for expansion has been around since then.

The town owns the land surrounding the Eppendorf site and extending north to Hazard Avenue. The portion Eppendorf would transfer to the town has significant portions of wetlands. The part the town would transfer to Eppendorf doesn't have as much but does include a protected area that is near wetlands.

The land swap approved by the council still needs approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission and must go to a public hearing before it becomes official.

Eppendorf officials could not be reached for comment. They plan to make a presentation to town officials later this month, Raymond Warren, the town's director of development services, said.

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