

Lockhart gives \$145K to Union

Power company's funds to cover road improvements

From staff reports

Lockhart Power Co. announced Tuesday a record-setting \$145,000 contribution of utility license tax funds, bringing its total to more than \$1 million reinvested in Union County since 2001.

The company said the funds will be used for road improvements at Midway Green Industrial Park, a more than 100-acre site at 265 Midway Drive.

In South Carolina, a utility license tax is applied by the state to the gross receipts and assets owned by certain utilities in the state, including Lockhart Power. The tax normally is paid by the utility directly to the state, but there is an option for the utility to receive a tax credit for any amount it contributes toward providing infrastructure for qualified economic development projects.

Lockhart Power said it elected to contribute the entire amount of its projected 2014 utility license tax liability to Midway Green for "the benefit of Union County and surrounding residents and businesses."

"We are pleased that we are able to earmark these funds that would typically go to the state to reinvest in our own community," Bryan Stone, chief operating officer of Lockhart Power, said in a statement. "These

improvements at Midway Green Industrial

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Park will extend the county road to new industrial sites, helping to spur economic activity ... at the park."

The utility said Midway Green is a state-certified industrial park that has high-reliability and low-cost power, which it provides. Lockhart Power said it generates 99 percent of its power from renewable sources.

The park has the ability to be served by renewable landfill gas, which can be used for on-site generation or direct thermal use for industrial heating, with residual heat resulting in low pressure steam and hot water, the utility said. It also has an adjacent wastewater treatment plant that can provide treated greywater for industrial process needs.

Lockhart Power said the site is ideal for environmentally conscious manufacturers that are large consumers of electricity and other utilities.

In addition to Midway Green, the utility has in the past contributed to other projects that include Union Commerce Park, Dollar General, Gestamp and Gonvauto.

