Facility Planning/Plant Layout/Interior Space Planning, Page 2

Assume that you are not the plant manager, production manager, or the person responsible for operations. Instead, you are the person responsible for the facilities, let’s call you the facilities manager, or FM (what an original idea). Your primary job, as always, is to support production in any way possible. And, as always, you are strapped with limited budget (one of those "overhead" activities), and a limited, yet spread-thin staff. You have to do as much as possible with as little as possible and push off as much of your costs as possible to an operating budget, and still have the other departments heads smiling at you.

Your company is anticipating purchasing some new production equipment and, as a result, your plant will need a new layout, at least, and possibly an addition, at most. Your boss, the General Manager (GM) tells you to start figuring out how this is going to happen, no...how YOU are going to make it happen, because in order to stay competitive, your company needs to upgrade. Since it is after 6:00 p.m. and knowing that you do your best thinking away from work, you head for home.

After driving through Hardee's you start to eat your Thickburger, with one hand on the wheel and the other hand trying to skillfully balance this mass of meat, veggies and bun using your best Paris Hilton imitation, but realizing that most of the ketchup is running down your arm while a slab of lettuce lands firmly on your lap. So you get home, turn on America’s Got Talent, pop open an adult beverage, and kick-back into your Barcalounger with a couple of legal pads and start the process. You decide to make two lists. The first is the things you need to find out from the Production Manager (PM). These include:

- Size
- Weight
- Space: proximities, clearances and access
- Electrical requirements
- Lighting requirements
- Cooling requirements
- Other utility needs
- Environmental concerns
- Computer/networking requirements.

The second lists the factors that you need to consider when looking at the proposed plant layout. These include:
• Utility locations (gas, electric, water, sewer)
• Existing lighting
• Electrical power demands/availability
• Computer/networking drop locations
• Heat load
• Humidity
• Hazardous waste
• Loading docks location/need
• Structural requirements
• Installation access and logistics
• Maintenance requirements (access)

Feeling satisfied that you've gotten a good start, you nod off to sleep while South Park provides a flickering glow in the room.