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Happy Meals and Shale Drilling Spinoffs

By George Nelson

LORDSTOWN, Ohio -- The owners of Ohio Commerce Park -- where ground was broken Tuesday for construction of the \$28 million Anderson-Dubose warehouse that will serve McDonald's -- are exploring ways to capitalize on the rich Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas deposits in the region.

"We're in the process of looking at" different companies involved in shale activity," said Spiro Bakeris, co-owner of the industrial park. "Nothing's been signed or anything but we're examining that and looking at which options we want to go."

Gov. John Kasich alluded to the potential, highlighted by Chesapeake Energy Corp.'s announcement last week that the "discovery of a major new liquids-rich play in the Utica Shale," concentrated in eastern Ohio, that could add as much as \$20 billion to the company's value.

"It's not just about something on the wellhead. It's about industries that are attached to it," Kasich said Tuesday at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Anderson-Dubose Inc. distribution center and warehouse at the industrial park. He pointed to the best-known local example of such activity to illustrate his point, V&M Star's new \$650 million mill being built in Youngstown.

"We're hoping to get some of that" activity, Bakeris said.

The \$28 million, state-of-the-art distribution center and headquarters under construction here will position Anderson-Dubose to supply McDonalds Corp. restaurants in a four-state region for the next 20 to 30 years, executives said.

Story continued here: <http://business-journal.com/happy-meals-and-shale-drilling-spinoffs-p19707-1.htm>

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