



This morning's started with [the announcement](#) from parent company [Mueller Water Products](#) that [U.S. Pipe](#) will be closing its [ductile iron pipe](#) manufacturing plant in Birmingham's North Birmingham community. The construction of a new facility in Bessemer which uses a new process that increased output and reduced production costs helped lead to this decision.

According to [the press release](#), 260 positions will be eliminated by March 31 of this year helping the company see \$6-8 million in savings during fiscal 2010. The production handled by the North Birmingham plant will be shifted to the company's Bessemer plant as well as a plant in Union City, CA.