

## GM Cuts Leave Questions About Del. Plant's Future (Fox 29)

There was more bad news Tuesday from General Motors. The automaker announced drastic cuts in a desperate move to avoid potential bankruptcy.

So, what does the future hold for the Boxwood Road facility in Wilmington, the only GM plant in the Delaware Valley? We just don't know yet.

Tuesday's announcement will not have an immediate impact on the nearly 2,000 employees at the plant. But the long-term future is extremely uncertain.

If this plant does close, it will have a huge impact on the local economy.

A job at an American auto plant used to be one of the best jobs you could get, with great pay, good benefits, and plenty of job security.

But as GM made clear Tuesday morning, those days are long gone.

"We recognize we can't sit back and wait for U.S. conditions to improve," General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner said. "We need to continue to be proactive and even take some very tough actions to ensure our survival and our success."

Just a couple of weeks ago, one leading financial expert warned GM could be headed toward bankruptcy. So, the auto giant is slashing labor costs for salaried employees by 20 percent, cutting its truck production, and closing some plants sooner than expected.

"In short, our plan is not a plan to survive. It is a plan to win," Wagoner said.

Those plans made no mention of the Boxwood Road facility. Auto workers there make two of GM's best-selling cars. But the company will be moving production of the vehicles to other plants in 2011.

Delaware state officials are urging GM to keep the plant open so it can produce hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Congressman Mike Castle, who met with GM's CEO, insisted, "The men and women at the Boxwood Road plant are critical to GM's success, and the continued operation of this plant is vital to the economic prosperity of our community."

State officials said the GM plant contributes nearly \$800 million to the local economy.

"My customer is 20 percent that all comes from GM," said business owner Kay Asamoto. If the plant were to shut down,

she said, "Yes, we have problems."

"If they close, I think it affects all around here," said Kadriye Demircan, a local pizza shop owner.

Asked if she thought they'd be able to stay open if the plant closed, Demircan said, "I don't know. We will see."

In a written statement, the congressman told Fox29 News the 1,900 employees at the plant deserve a "straight-forward understanding" of the company's future plans.

They didn't get that Tuesday. But clearly the news out of Detroit does not bode well for increased production at the plant, which opened back in 1946.