



# **MIDILLINOIS MECHANICAL**

## **Switching Up Sweets: Ferrero Plant Planning to Produce Milk Chocolate**

**February 2021**

Bloomington, IL - Ferrero North America, part of the worldwide sweets company Ferrero Group, is converting an old Nestle factory on the southwest side of Bloomington, IL. The conversion requires a shift from the production of candies using confectioners sugar to a milk chocolate-based process. This will be Ferrero NA's first chocolate production plant in North America and will help produce chocolate for national favorites such as Crunch, 100Grand, SnoCaps, Raisinets, Goobers, and Ferrero Rocher. The \$75 million investment will expand the facility at 2501 Beich Road by 70,000 square feet.

Mid Illinois Mechanical is proud to partner with Ferrero on this large-scale project to invest in the growth of our community. This expansion consists of dismantling conveyors and convectors and shipping them to another Ferrero facility. New underground piping and plumbing will be installed as well as fixtures, process chilled & heated water, and compressed air all in updated lines and systems. Construction is planned to begin in Spring, 2021, and estimates 50 new local jobs will be created.

Mid Illinois Mechanical was founded in 1990 by Doug Dodson, a well-respected fixture in the Central Illinois trades. Doug's goal was to fill the gaps he saw in the industry with quality work and reliable service. What began as a three-person shop has steadily grown over the last 30 years. During that time, Mid Illinois Mechanical has expanded its team, capabilities, and breadth of operation to become a leader in the industry. Mid Illinois Mechanical features three divisions: maintenance & service, construction, and prefabrication. Today, Mid Illinois Mechanical is run by Doug's two sons, Joel and Jeremy Dodson. Joel and Jeremy focus on building upon the strong foundation laid by their father, looking for ways to innovate and continue raising the bar of quality and service in everything they do.

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