Written by Jessie Williams
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After nearly four years as the Red Boiling Springs Nestlé Plant Manager, Tony Dexter is moving on to take the reins of a struggling plant, which produces Nestlé's Arrowhead brand, in Ontario, California.

Dexter said he was approached about the position in California shortly after Thanksgiving, and felt the need to assist in the plant's turn-around.

"The plant is struggling, and there's a need for the organization to get that plant turned around. As an officer of this company, it's in my best interest to make sure the company is in a good spot everywhere," he remarked. "It's one of those hard decisions you have to make … I very much appreciate the company's confidence in me to be able to go out there and turn it around. I thought it would be a good challenge and a good career move for me to help stabilize the organization."

Dexter's last official day at the RBS plant is Thursday, February 7, which will allow him to spend some time with incoming plant manager Eric Solomon, who arrived on Monday, February 4.

Solomon comes to the Red Boiling Springs plant from Florida, where he has been serving Nestlé's two Florida plants for around 15 years.

“Eric’s been with the company for a long time,” Dexter said about his replacement. “He’s held several positions within the two factories that he worked - from line resources to operations manager to technical manager. He’s well versed, has a good technical base and knows a lot about the company and how we operate. I think this is a healthy move for this plant. This plant is on an upward trend, and I expect that he’s going to be able to keep that going.”

Dexter went on to say that he and Solomon share the same values when it comes to Nestlé’s role in the community.

“In our numerous conversations, Eric has shared his belief in continuing Nestlé’s tradition of being a good neighbor, and a steward of the community,” he said.

Though Dexter is anxious to begin this new chapter in his career, the decision to leave Macon County, he says, has been bittersweet.

“One thing I’ve very thankful for is everybody in Macon County has really welcomed myself and my family,” he said. “Not just on the business side of it, but also on the personal side of it. It was our first major move as a family, and it’s been a great experience.”

The Red Boiling Springs plant recently held a dinner for Dexter and his family, presenting him with a canvas portrait of the plant along with written messages from plant employees.

“It’s tough for me to put into words the gratitude I feel for everybody,” he stated. “We’re going to miss it here, that’s for sure.”

The *Macon County Chronicle* would like to wish Tony, his wife Heather, and their children Daniel, Blaine, Annmarie, Krissa and Brittany, all the best in their new home in California.