BP’s economic investment

BP has a rich, proud history in Chicago that dates back more than a century, and over the years its investments have made it part of the city’s cultural fabric.

Through its heritage company Amoco, BP built what was then Chicago’s tallest skyscraper in the 1970s, and today it has downtown offices in the famous Chicago Mercantile Exchange building.

BP’s downtown offices serve as the headquarters of its North American fuels business — including its U.S. pipelines business — while also housing one of the company’s most important trading hubs. These businesses produce, transport, sell and deliver the energy that makes modern life possible.

Every day, for example, BP’s Chicago-based U.S. Pipelines and Logistics business (USPL) manages more than 3,200 miles of pipelines carrying 1.1 million barrels of crude oil, natural gas liquids and refined products. In 2017, USPL formed a new master limited partnership — BP Midstream Partners LP (BPMP) — and completed the first initial public offering in BP history.

Chicago also is home to the U.S. headquarters of Air BP, one of the world’s leading suppliers of aviation fuel products and services. Active in more than 50 countries, Air BP serves everyone from commercial carriers and private aircraft owners to the U.S. military.

About 30 miles west of downtown Chicago, BP’s campus in Naperville, Illinois functions as the North American technology hub for its fuels and petrochemicals businesses. Scientists and engineers in Naperville test innovative ideas and share the results with BP facilities worldwide.

Meanwhile, about 17 miles southeast of downtown Chicago, in northwest Indiana, BP’s Whiting Refinery produces around 10 million gallons of gasoline, 3.5 million gallons of diesel and 1.7 million gallons of jet fuel each day, along with roughly 5 percent of all asphalt in the United States.

By way of perspective, Whiting produces enough gasoline each day to support the average daily fuel needs of more than 7 million cars. It’s the largest refinery in the Midwest — as well as BP’s largest refinery anywhere in the world — and it makes enormous contributions to the region’s transportation network.

All told, BP supports more than 17,300 jobs across the Chicagoland and northwest Indiana metropolitan area.

In addition, it has donated more than $40 million to Chicago-area community programs since 2006 alone. For example, BP served as presenting sponsor of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015 and 2016, to which it contributed $2.5 million, and then served as founding sponsor of the second Biennial in 2017 and 2018, to which it contributed $1 million. Each exhibition featured projects designed by many of the world’s leading architects.

Since 2015, BP also has contributed $1.75 million to the Student Conservation Association to support environmental programs for high schoolers and young adults in the Chicagoland and northwest Indiana region. Through this partnership, the company has helped improve conditions at Chicago’s Calumet Watershed and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, while helping local youths gain valuable skills and experience.