



The January 2008 Open for Business report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

Japanese producer to open plastics plant in Kanawha County

Kureha Corp. plans to invest more than \$100 million to build a specialty plastics plant at Belle, creating about 50 jobs. Kureha Corp. is a producer of specialty chemicals and plastic products headquartered in Japan. The project will occupy available space at DuPont's Belle plant. Companies that locate inside existing plants gain access to utilities and services such as security, helping both operators reduce costs. The new Kureha plant will use a raw material made on-site by DuPont.

Kureha plans to create a new subsidiary to produce a high-performance polymer, polyglycolic acid, also known as PGA, at Belle. Construction is to begin in 2008. Production starts in early 2010. Hiring will begin in 2008 through sources including WORKFORCE West Virginia.

Hydroelectric company opens production office, creates jobs, in Fayette County

Hawks Nest Hydro LLC, a division of Canadian-based Brookfield Power Corp., has signed a lease for office space in Montgomery in Fayette County. The Montgomery office is expected to create 19 jobs. The employees will manage the Hawks Nest and Glen Ferris hydroelectric plants in West Virginia, the Deep Creek hydro plant in Maryland, the Piney plant in Pennsylvania and the Twin Cities hydro plant in Minnesota. Brookfield has committed \$50 million to a 20-year capital investment program for the 102-megawatt Hawks Nest plant.

Buoyed by orders, Fenton Glass remains in business

A surge in orders has enabled Fenton Art Glass Co. to keep its doors open for business. In 2007, the company announced its intention to close. Dealers and collectors responded with support and increased orders. Fenton reported it has made progress toward the financial restructuring of the company and is now accepting orders for spring 2008. Formed in 1905, Fenton has been producing handmade colored art glass in Williamstown, Wood County, since Jan. 2, 1907. Fenton has 120 employees.

CAZ, WVDO Japan office, participate in INCHEM show in Japan

The state Chemical Alliance Zone, the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) and staff from the WVDO Japan office recently exhibited at Inchem in Tokyo, Japan. Inchem Tokyo is the largest trade fair in Asia, covering the fields of Chemical Plant Engineering, IT process solutions for the chemical industry, and materials. The four-day show included seminars and a major exhibition showcasing the latest products and services in these fields.

West Virginia Small Business Development Center helps 234 clients in November

In November 2007, the West Virginia Small Business Development Center (SDBC) provided 387 hours of counseling and training to 234 clients and approved five loans totaling \$331,700. SDBC staff trained 86 people at 12 events in November.

In this fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2007, the SDBC has provided 951 hours of counseling and training to 505 clients, and approval on 12 loans totaling nearly \$1,825,175.

International food retailer to sell West Virginia-made salsa

Charleston-based Maggie's Salsa recently received its first order from Whole Foods Market, the world's largest natural and organic food retailer. Whole Foods requested 10,000 pounds of Maggie's Salsa each week to sell in its stores. Maggie's Salsa is owned by Magdalena De La Cruz Cook-Garcia, who started her business in 2004 after her family salsa recipe took first prize in the Summer Salsa Contest at the West Virginia Capitol Market.

Cabell County eatery to be featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives"

Hillbilly Hotdogs in Lesage has been filmed for an upcoming episode of the Food Network TV show "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." The episode is expected to air in June. The menu of Hillbilly Hotdogs features items such as "The Junkyard Dog" and other uniquely themed fare. Hillbilly Hotdogs is owned by Sonny and Sharie Knight.

Washington Homeopathic Products makes appearance on Oprah Winfrey Show

Berkeley Springs-based Washington Homeopathic Products recently was featured on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" in an episode featuring "What the Stylemakers Can't Live Without." Supermodel Cindy Crawford said that as a wife and mother, she relies on her homeopathic remedy kit made by Washington Homeopathic Products. Since 1873, Washington Homeopathic Products has manufactured and sold a complete line of homeopathic products. Washington Homeopathic Products is owned by Joe and Linda Lillard.

West Virginia's Unemployment Rate Inched Downward in November

West Virginia's unemployment rate inched downward one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent in November, WORKFORCE West Virginia reported. The number of unemployed state residents fell 1,100 to 34,500. Total unemployment was down 3,700 over the year. Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed 1,800, where a gain of 2,800 in the service-providing sector overpowered a loss of 1,000 in the goods-producing sector.

WVEDA approves funds for metals processor in Marshall County

During its December meeting, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority gave final approval to a \$3.6 million loan to Leveltek Processing, LLC, to purchase and install equipment at the company's facility in Benwood, Marshall County. Leveltek specializes in the toll processing of metal in coiled form. The process stretches metals such as stainless and galvanized steel, titanium, aluminum, brass and bronze, with non-marking grippers to eliminate waves and buckles. Leveltek currently employs 25 people and anticipates expanding to as many as 66 in three years.

Fayette County gets infrastructure improvements

The existing waste water treatment plant in Mt. Hope will be upgraded and new sewers extended to the communities of Kilsyth and Price Hill. The project is made possible by a loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state Development Office HUD program and Department of Environmental Protection's Stream Restoration Fund.

West Virginia hosts energy summit

Gov. Manchin convened a daylong meeting of governors and representatives of 11 coal states Dec. 4 at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, W.Va. The energy summit, "Advancing Coal in an Era of Carbon Challenges," drew more than 200 participants. Governors discussed strategies to ensure that coal remains a cornerstone of the nation's energy supply. Participants committed to work together in advancing clean coal technologies that will enable coal to meet U.S. electric and transportation needs.

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