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## Governor Releases February "Open for Business" Report

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** - Gov. Joe Manchin today released the latest in a series of regular "Open for Business" reports, documenting the state's economic progress. The February 2006 report reflects on positive progress in the state's economic development efforts during the past month, with projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of as many as 76 new jobs, the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs, and the investment of more than \$333 million in West Virginia.

- **Warren Distribution, an automotive supply company, will invest \$13 million to locate its lubricant blending operation in Marshall County, creating as many as 46 new jobs in the city of Glen Dale.** The company, which manufactures and distributes automotive aftermarket products, will build a system to pump bulk lubricants from barges into tanks inside and outside a 250,000-square-foot building for blending to proper specifications and packaging into pails and bottles, some of which will be made by Warren. For more information about the company, visit [www.wd-wpp.com](http://www.wd-wpp.com).
- **Essroc Cement Corp. announced a \$320 million expansion and modernization plan for the company's Martinsburg plant.** The construction project, scheduled to begin this spring, will enable the retention of 150 jobs and may provide future employment opportunities in West Virginia. It will create as many as 250 construction jobs during the building phase. The Martinsburg plant currently produces 2,350 short tons of clinker per day. The expansion project has been permitted to increase capacity up to 6,000 short tons per day and improve the plant's environmental footprint. Essroc is part of Italy's Italcementi Group, one of the largest cement producers in the world.
- **Accurate Millworks Inc. announced the company's location in the USDA Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center's rough mill facility in Princeton and an initial offering of as many as 30 jobs.** The company, milling kiln-dried basswood and poplar components for the window manufacturing industry, will seek skilled machine operators. Accurate Millworks leased the Wood Education and Resource Center's 42,000-square-foot factory as a hardwood molding and milling facility. The center was created through the efforts of Sen. Robert C. Byrd. Accurate Millworks' owner Robert Kincaid is a partner of WoodMart Window Coverings in Van Nuys, Calif., which manufactures plantation shutters using hardwood from several West Virginia suppliers.

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- **Chesapeake Energy will construct its Eastern United States Division office in West Virginia, hiring geologists, engineers and other energy professionals and staff.** The company, the nation's second largest independent producer of natural gas and the most active driller of new natural gas and oil wells in the United States, completed its acquisition of West Virginia-based Columbia Natural Resources in November 2005.
- **Dow, in a cooperative partnership with West Virginia University, WVU Tech and Marshall University, is transforming its South Charleston Technology Park into a nationally recognized education, research and development center.** Batelle Memorial Institute, a world-renowned contract research institute headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, has committed through collaboration with Dow and the Chemical Alliance Zone to assign researchers and a manager to this site to conduct research and work with the educational partners and other organizations on collaborative research and business opportunities.
- **American Electric Power and its subsidiary, Appalachian Power, filed an application with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia seeking authority to construct a 600-megawatt Integrated Coal Gasification Combined Cycle power plant – or IGCC – electric generating unit next to its Mountaineer Plant near New Haven in Mason County.** As one of the first commercial scale coal gasification projects, this will allow West Virginia to be a national leader in the development of clean coal technology for power generation and support future opportunities to produce a variety of clean liquid fuels and chemical feedstocks for other industries. AEP also announced plans to build a \$3 billion, 550-mile transmission line from its John Amos Power plant near Winfield to New Jersey.