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EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

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**GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2005
GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
EXCELLENCE**

BETHLEHEM, Northampton County -- Governor Edward G. Rendell today honored Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc. for its successful remediation and redevelopment of the former Bethlehem Steel Corp. site, the largest privately owned brownfield property in the nation.

"Pennsylvania is working with residents and businesses to make environmental protection an engine of economic growth," Governor Rendell said. "Lehigh Valley Industrial Park is a perfect example of how investments in environmental protection can spur innovation and foster productivity. The work at the former Bethlehem Steel property will generate in excess of \$1.5 billion in new investments and create 6,000 jobs in the Lehigh Valley."

Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc. was as one of 12 winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty announced all of the winners during a ceremony with industrial park officials at the former steel site.

"Governor Rendell has made clear that his number one objective is economic revitalization --- to create the jobs we critically need," McGinty said. "Our commonwealth is thriving, and the work of groups like the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc. will ensure we achieve lasting growth. This once contaminated and abandoned industrial site is flourishing again with opportunity."

Since Bethlehem Steel Corp. ceased manufacturing, site redevelopment has been a priority in the Lehigh Valley. The 1,600-acre property, named the Bethlehem Commerce Center, represents 20 percent of the city's taxable land and represents the region's single most important economic development project.

In May 2004, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park acquired 1,000 acres of the site and embarked on redevelopment. The property contained the remnants of 140 years of steel manufacturing --- buried building foundation, abandoned infrastructure lines, contaminated soil and groundwater. Through the use of engineering and institutional controls such as capping impacted soils and limiting groundwater use through deed restrictions, redevelopment of the property was made economically feasible while protecting human health and the environment.

In April 2005, U.S. Cold Storage, a nationwide refrigeration company that stores and distributes frozen food, became the first business to open Bethlehem Commerce Center. The \$14 million, 175,000-square-foot facility will expand to 625,000 square feet in futures phases of development. U.S. Cold Storage will invest \$37 million in the project, which will create 90 jobs and \$800,000 in annual property taxes.

In addition, a 4,200-foot Commerce Center Boulevard and 100-acre intermodal facility are completed and open for use. The new intermodal facility will replace and modernize two existing truck-to-rail operations and open up additional land for future development.

The Bethlehem Commerce Center also serves as a pioneer project as the first selection for the Governor's innovative Brownfield Action Team initiative. BAT improves the state's Land Recycling Program by expediting the assessment, planning and permitting process, or any additional measure necessary in order to advance the project. BAT projects typically get permitted in half the usual time.

The success of this innovative community project also contributed to an historic agreement in 2004 between DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to make the commonwealth's Land Recycling Program the first and only in the nation to serve as a "one-stop shop" for state and federal standards guiding the cleanup of brownfield sites. The memorandum clarifies that sites remediated under the state's brownfields program also satisfy requirements for three key federal environmental cleanup laws.

"Pennsylvania has always been a place for innovation," McGinty said. "Our businesses are showing that environmental stewardship is not only possible, but profitable as well."

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that put in place projects that take on environmental problems in ways that build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

Winners of the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence receive a commemorative plaque and outdoor flag to acknowledge their commitment to environmental quality. Each recipient will be presented with these exclusive awards during individual press events at the winner's location.

Aside from Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc., the other 11 winners of the 2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence include:

- **Southern York County Library, Shrewsbury, York County:** The library employed several green building technologies to achieve a 35 percent reduction in overall energy use, with \$4,475 in energy savings projected annually. The project was awarded the NC 2.1 certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, making it the first library project in the state to be so honored.
- **CENTRIA, Ambridge, Beaver County:** CENTRIA performed an oven and line speed upgrade at its facility, increasing the throughput of the Ambridge paint line and minimizing the use and expense of natural gas. Gas savings as a result of these upgrades are expected to range from \$600,000 to \$800,000 per year.
- **Exhibit Place Inc., McKees Rocks, Allegheny County:** This small business realizes savings of about \$12,800 per year in energy costs through energy efficiency improvements made to their new facility. With these upgrades, Exhibit Place was able to expand their business while achieving a 40 percent energy cost reduction.
- **Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Ligonier, Westmoreland County:** This group's e-cycling program began in an effort to create a recycling program that would greatly benefit the environment and provide a convenient location for the community to dispose of small household, office and computer items free of charge. The e-cycling program is now one of just 13 in the commonwealth, and the only one run by a private organization. As of last fall, the program was one of only four free permanent electronics recycling centers in the state.
- **Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp., East Earl, Lancaster County:** In 2004, Conestoga created an Environmental and Community Outreach Team to extend their environmental efforts into the community. Through programs like the Conestoga Urban Forestry Initiative, sponsorship of environmental field trips for local schools and a new summer camp program, Conestoga is engaging the next generation of environmental stewards.
- **Granger Energy of Honey Brook LLC, Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County:** The Lanchester Landfill Gas Utilization Project is the first multiple customer landfill gas-to-energy project in Pennsylvania. Landfill gas is transported underground from the landfill for 13 miles to multiple customers, making it the longest landfill gas pipeline in the United States. Enough landfill gas will be used annually to save 122,800 barrels of oil, offset the use of 250 railcars of coal, provide greenhouse gas reduction benefits equal to planting 15,600 acres of forest, remove emissions of 11,550 cars or heat 33,900 homes.
- **Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development LLC, Lower Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County:** Through installation of a "zero" discharge cooling tower water treatment system, Johnson & Johnson achieved a water use and corresponding wastewater discharge reduction of 4.8 million gallons per year, resulting in a cost savings of \$29,472 annually. This avoidance also reduces the burden on the local water authority and publicly owned treatment works.

- **Wire rope Works Inc., Williamsport, Lycoming County:** The company installed a combination of technologies successfully eliminating 27,000 pounds of lead pollution annually from their manufacturing process, and recycled more than 80,000 pounds of lead that was used in the old process, helping to fund the change. In addition, more than \$50,000 annually is avoided in maintenance costs with the new process.
- **Cranberry Township, Cranberry Township, Butler County:** The township developed the Collection Connection, a comprehensive municipal waste management program that addresses the changing needs of its community. The Collection Connection includes fully automated collection, enabling fewer vehicles to service more homes in a shorter time; single-stream recycling, allowing storage and collection of all recyclables in one container; a pay-as-you-throw variable rate disposal/collection system; and year-round curbside yard waste collection for composting.
- **Scrubgrass Generating Co., Kennerdell, Venango County:** The Benjamin No. 6 Reclamation project transformed a formerly abandoned mine land into a environmentally viable landscape capable of supporting diverse vegetation, wildlife and aquatic species. Approximately 445,450 tons of coal refuse was removed from the site, and the entire 59 acres has been completed and revegetated, improving overall water quality, decreasing metal loading and stopping erosion and sedimentation runoff.
- **PhillyCarShare, Philadelphia:** PhillyCarShare is the first system worldwide in which government employees and local residents share vehicles by the hour in a major car-reduction effort. The project has replaced 330 municipal vehicles, saving the city \$2 million annually, and residential members have sold or avoided the purchase of roughly 1,200 vehicles and saved about \$5.5 million annually versus car ownership.

DEP received 78 applications for the 2005 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. The applications were evaluated according to the following criteria: overall environmental benefit, public service, economic impact, use of innovative technology, teamwork and environmental education and outreach.

To view a more detailed summary of the 12 winning projects, visit the department’s Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us and click on “2005 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence.”

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The Rendell Administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell’s initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit his Web site at: www.governor.state.pa.us.