

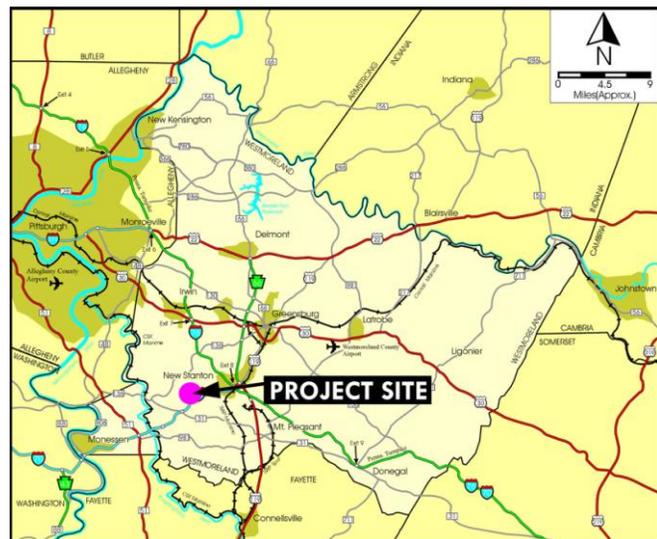
*For business editors*

## **Westmoreland County Receives \$2,215,925 PennWorks Grant for the Waltz-Mill Rail Park**

*A Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure project to benefit business and industry, community and the environment.*

**YUKON**, December 5, 2013 – The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation’s (WCIDC) Board of Directors, Charles W. Anderson, R. Tyler Courtney, and Ted Kopas announced today the approval of a PennWorks grant funding application, submitted on behalf of the county through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Program, in the amount of \$2,215,925. The PennWorks grant, administered by the

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), is for the construction of 14,400 linear feet of a 10 inch main line and two (2) sewage pumping stations integral for 1) extending public sewage service to the Westinghouse – Waltz Mill site and potentially Menasha Paper Company, 2) the development of a new 150 acre rail-served industrial park, 3) providing affordable access to public sewage service to address on-lot sewage issues in the community of Yukon and 4) the development of a new revenue source for the local sewage authority.

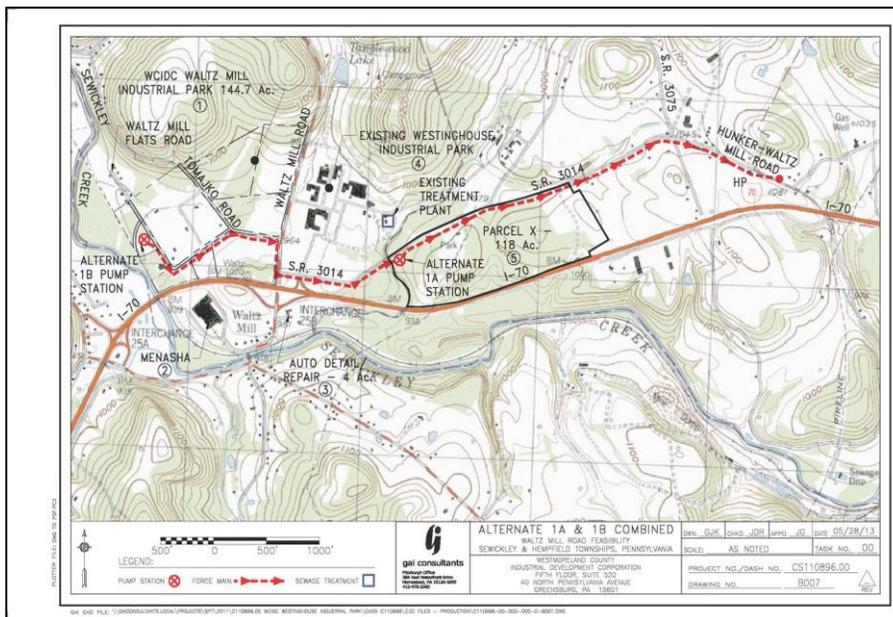


“This is a unique, public/private partnership undertaking and a significant attainment for the county that will help to offset the negative economic impacts of SCI-Greensburg’s [state prison] recent closure,” said Commissioner Charles Anderson, who also serves as chairman of the

county industrial development corporation. “The project will ultimately benefit business and industry, community and the environment thanks to the efforts of State Senator Kim Ward and State Representative Ted Harhai for supporting the project and securing this funding.”

### **Support World Class Jobs**

- The extension of the 14,400 lineal feet of public sewage service will immediately support local industry and the existing 800 jobs based out of the Westinghouse Waltz Mill Facility. The Waltz Mill campus is currently Westinghouse’s largest service and maintenance facility for power plants. Workers from around the world are brought to Westmoreland County for training, with a focus on a wide range of nuclear plant services. At present, the campus is serviced by a package treatment plant owned and operated by Westinghouse. Unfortunately, the plant is running at full or near capacity.



In addition to supporting the engineering and technical jobs at Westinghouse, Menasha Paper Company, located in close proximity to the project and having approximately 200 employees, is in a similar situation.

Menasha has a private sewage treatment plant which is presently at or near capacity. Any additional growth is curtailed by the plant’s lack of capacity.

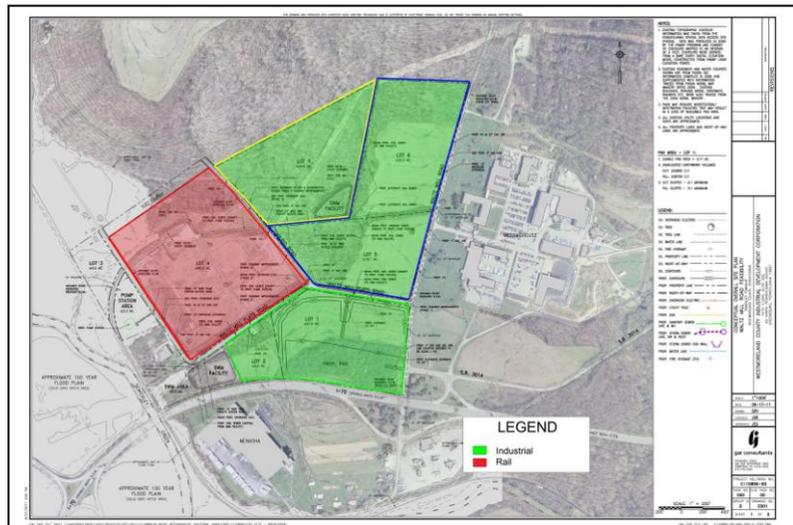
“Supporting local industry and retaining world-class jobs is an immediate benefit to this project and we thank the board members of the Commonwealth Financing Authority for their support of these efforts,” said Commissioner Tyler Courtney, who also serves as vice chairman of the county industrial development corporation. “The extension of public sewage and the elimination of private treatment facilities will provide an environmental benefit as well,” adds Commissioner Ted Kopas, who also serves as treasurer of the county industrial development corporation. “This project is economic development and pollution prevention wrapped together.”

The project will be designed to eliminate two (2) sewage treatment plants (STPs), remove point discharges to Sewickley Creek and redirect flows to a publicly operated system. In addition, the consolidation of treatment will reduce the Commonwealth's operating expense for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) by overseeing and inspecting one (1) system instead of three (3).

### **New Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Related Jobs**

- Based on an analysis completed earlier this year (Source: Rail Market Demand & Absorption Analysis), it became apparent that the Pittsburgh region, including Westmoreland County, is lacking quality rail-served sites for traditional manufacturing projects. Consequently, the county made the determination that developing rail-served sites is imperative at this time. Additionally, with the development of the Marcellus shale, numerous midstream and downstream opportunities are surfacing and developing sites to accommodate those projects as well are essential. Lacking the necessary portfolio of products opens the county, region and the Commonwealth to the high probability of losing projects to competing states nationwide.

Westmoreland County is moving rapidly to address those industry needs and regional deficiencies. The WCIDC has entered into an agreement to purchase 150 acres of property currently owned by Westinghouse to construct a new industrial/business park. The proposed development is very similar in nature to other county-owned industrial

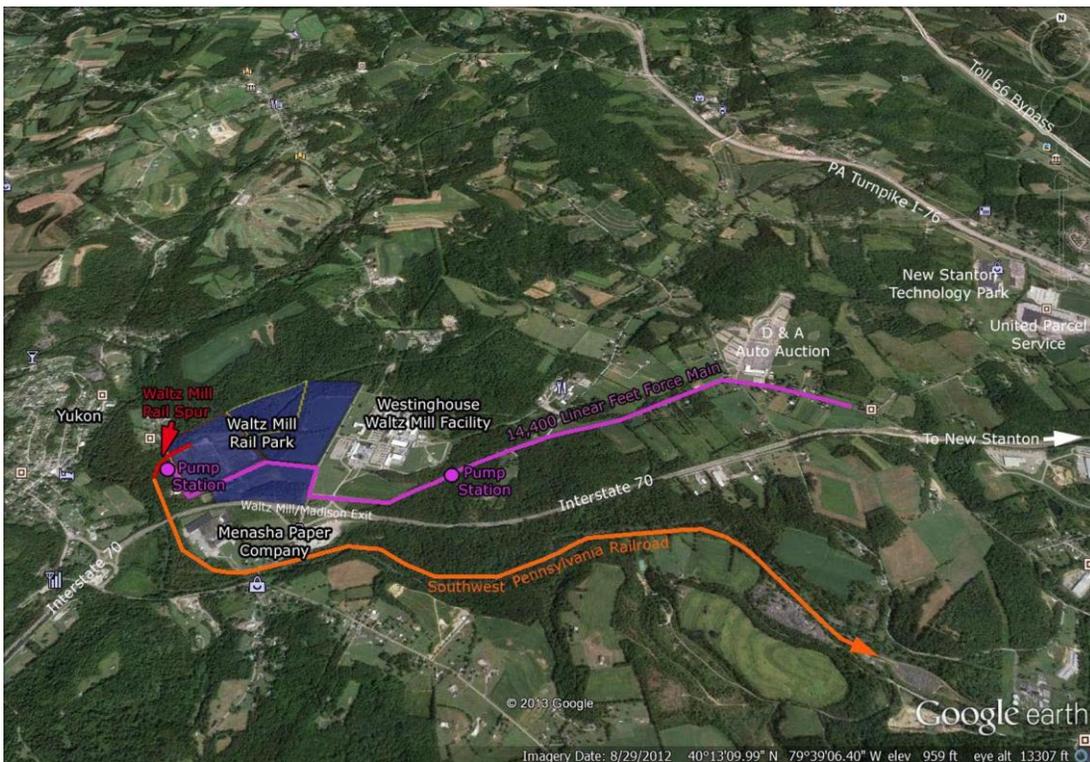


parks with the major difference being that the proposed development can be rail-served. The new park will be developed to accommodate larger users and will be subdivided into 10-20 acre parcels with a large portion of the property already pad-ready. Logistically, rail service will be provided by the Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad (SWP). The SWP has direct connection to three Class 1 railroads (Norfolk Southern, CSX and Canadian National). The ability to utilize and contract with any of the three major rail carriers provides new customers the unique opportunity to negotiate with the railroads to ensure low cost and great service. Additionally, the prime location of the site adjacent to the Waltz Mill Exit features direct highway access to I-70 and is within two miles of the county's major transportation hub at New Stanton providing access to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, U.S. Route 119 and PA Toll Road 66.

“From a marketing perspective, the property is currently designated as a Strategic Development Area (SDA), which makes the site a virtual “tax free” zone in terms of state and local taxes,” said Jason Rigone, Executive Director of the WCIDC. “This designation has nearly ten (10) years remaining of the tax free status.”

### **Community Development Benefit**

- The extension of public sewage would not only present an economic development benefit but also a community development and environmental benefit. Yukon, a small village of approximately 750 residents located across Sewickley Creek from the proposed industrial park, has one of the highest concentrations of on-lot sewage in Westmoreland County (based on an analysis completed by the Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development) with numerous malfunctioning and wildcat systems.



Currently, there are no cost-effective and affordable public sewage service options for its residents. To accommodate both economic and community development opportunities, the proposed sewer extension project will be planned and designed to accommodate a future connection and service to Yukon.

“With federal and state funding programs severely limited for infrastructure projects, this crucial “three-way” economic/community/environmental benefit project was priority,” said Senator Kim Ward. “The Commonwealth’s decision to close SCI-Greensburg has had a severe economic impact on Westmoreland County. This sewage project will help minimize the impact and support a major employer of high paid jobs such as Westinghouse. I was happy to partner with the county and help secure this funding.”

In addition to the \$2,215,925 in PennWorks funds, the WCIDC will be providing the balance of the project cost estimated at nearly \$3.2 million.

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***For more information please contact:***

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