



WCIDC approves option agreement with Red Fish LLC for 10.99 acres at Westmoreland Technology Park II

GREENSBURG, PA, January 30, 2020 — The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (WCIDC) Board of Directors — Sean Kertes, Douglas Chew and Gina Cerilli — today approved an option agreement with Red Fish, LLC for two lots that comprise 10.99 acres at [Westmoreland Technology Park II](#) in Hempfield Township.

The approval gives Red Fish six months to finalize an agreement to purchase Lots 5 and 7. Red Fish represents Fossil Industries, a start-up company that will use high-tech manufacturing techniques to build a variety of consumer products, such as barbecue grills, fireplace components and aftermarket automotive components.

“We’re excited at the prospect of continuing to grow manufacturing in Westmoreland County by adding Fossil Industries to the roster of businesses that call Tech Park II home,” said Sean Kertes, chairman of the WCIDC and Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners. “This brings the number of lots at the park currently under option agreement to four, and we’re very excited about the momentum that’s building at that park. 2020 is shaping up to be a big year for Tech Park II.”

Fossil Industries projects that it will employ as many as 38 workers at the site within five years. Vice-Chairman Douglas Chew is pleased with both the number and types of those jobs.

“We’re talking engineering and skilled labor here. These are jobs that are going to work with laser cutting and CNC forming equipment. They’re going to be doing all of the drafting, engineering and fabrication in-house,” Chew said. “These are the types of companies that make Westmoreland County more competitive.”

Secretary Gina Cerilli noted the importance of the WCIDC’s long-term commitment to supporting economic development.

“By developing a robust industrial park system, the WCIDC plays an important role in creating an environment that welcomes and fosters business growth in Westmoreland County,” Cerilli said. “Ultimately, this results in more jobs and a diversified tax base.”

James Rose, president of Fossil Industries, is excited to be starting the new venture.

“A fair bit of training will be required to run the manufacturing equipment,” Rose said. “I and two of my senior employees are pretty passionate about the trades, and we hope to employ a good number of skilled laborers who should all have opportunities to advance as the company grows.”

Rose anticipates three phases of development. The first phase would construct 41,000 square foot building with 36,000 square feet of manufacturing space and the remainder for office use. The second phase — which is expected to occur between three and five years after the completion of the initial construction — would entail the addition of 12,000 square feet of manufacturing space and 1,500

square feet of office space. The third phase — which has a variable timeline — would build an additional facility with approximately 24,000 square feet of space.

About Fossil Industries

Fossil Industries is a new manufacturing company that was founded by James Rose of Murrysville. An engineer with 30 years of experience in oil and gas development, Rose previously served as Director of Engineering and Construction at EQT in Pittsburgh. He retired from EQT to continue development of his manufacturing company, Cellar Tech. After a period of rapid growth, Cellar Tech was acquired by National Oilwell Varco in 2018, and Rose served in a transitional role through 2019. Rose's entrepreneurial achievements were honored at the 2019 Pittsburgh Aspire Conference.

About Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

Founded in 1983 by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation implements a comprehensive economic development strategy to promote growth in terms of job creation, economic output and a stable tax base for Westmoreland County. Through the development of a county-wide industrial park system, a responsive Business Calling Program and involvement in public/private partnerships, WCIDC strives to foster business growth, resulting in job opportunities for the citizens of Westmoreland County.

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