

For Immediate Release



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FOCUS CENTRAL PA HOSTS INDUSTRIAL SITE SELECTION GUESTS
Forging the Future: Industrial Investment Opportunities in Central PA.



Mifflinburg, PA: On May 5th through May 7th, Focus Central Pennsylvania, a regional economic development marketing alliance with the mission to *attract investment that cultivates economic growth in Central Pennsylvania* welcomed several site selection consultants and industrial real estate experts for a tour of multiple rail served industrial sites and community assets through the region.

The site selection consultants were members of the Site Selectors Guild, the only association of the world's foremost professional site selection consultants. Guild members provide location strategy to corporations across the globe and for every industry, sector and function.

The tour events were held at the Rusty Rail in Mifflinburg, PA, an intricately restored industrial factory turned into a thriving destination brewery, restaurant, and event venue. The tour guests were joined by community, economic development, industrial and infrastructure leaders to learn more about industrial sites and comparative advantages the Central PA region offers to support competitive growth projects seeking a site location.

The site tour and forum were made possible by the generous support of partners, Norfolk Southern and PPL Foundation. As two key comparative advantages the region has to offer competitive projects the tour emphasized the rail and electric power infrastructure in the region. SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, a nine-county joint municipal

authority created to reserve rail service in Central Pennsylvania that owns and maintains over 250 miles of track has led to millions of dollars of industrial investment and the creation of thousands of quality jobs. North Shore Railroad Company, an award-winning short line operator, operates on the tracks owned by the SEDACOG Joint Rail Authority, provides rail service to a variety of businesses and industries, and moves aggregates, coal, grain, plastics, and more. These short lines connect to main lines Norfolk Southern and Canadian Pacific.

Power has risen quickly to be one of the most significant factors when industrial projects are seeking sites for expansion. Pennsylvania is the second-largest net supplier, after Texas, of total energy to other states. PPL Electric Utilities provides transmission and distribution service to a large portion of central and northeastern Pennsylvania is a national leader in grid reliability and has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades to improve reliability and capacity to include being recognized for implementing a first-of-its-kind innovation Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology to improve reliability and reduce costs. As part of the tour PPL Electric was able to provide estimated capacity, costs and time to serve each rail served industrial site for an expansion project.

As access to **skilled talent** has become a leading consideration for site location decisions for advanced manufacturing, the tour guests were hosted by Pennsylvania College of Technology President, Michael J. Reed and Vice President of Workforce development Alison Diehl for a tour of the premier college's new electronics lab, advanced welding lab, machining lab and the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center. Guests were impressed with what Penn College offered and shared that this was one of the most impressive technical colleges they have ever toured.

In addition to highlighting the Central Pennsylvania region's assets and competitive advantages for industrial growth, the regional team made sure to highlight the **momentum of economic development in Pennsylvania** to include the creation of a 10-year economic development strategy; the cutting of the Corporate Net Income (CNI) in half; launch of the PA Permit Fast Track Program; creation and implementation of the PA Sites program to build more pad-ready sites; roll out of the new BusinessPA team to be customer focused and responsive and much more!

About Focus Central Pennsylvania: Focus Central Pennsylvania is part of a committed team of economic development leaders from Centre, Mifflin, Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, and Columbia counties that proactively market the region as a choice location for quality companies to invest and grow their businesses.

About Norfolk Southern Since 1827, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) and its predecessor companies have safely moved the goods and materials that drive the U.S. economy. Today, it operates a customer-centric and operations-driven freight transportation network. Committed to furthering sustainability, Norfolk Southern helps its customers avoid approximately 15 million tons of yearly carbon emissions by shipping via rail. Its dedicated team members deliver more than 7 million carloads annually, from agriculture to consumer goods, and is the largest rail shipper of auto products and metals in North America. Norfolk Southern also has the most extensive intermodal network in the eastern U.S., serving a majority of the country's population and manufacturing base, with connections to every major container port on the Atlantic coast as well as the Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes. Learn more by visiting www.NorfolkSouthern.com.

About the PPL Foundation

The PPL Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization formed to support community initiatives in the areas served by PPL Corporation's utilities. Through strategic partnerships, the PPL Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are engaged in innovative and groundbreaking work to create vibrant, sustainable communities; advance diversity, equity, and inclusion; and support children's success from cradle to career in both Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Learn more at pplcares.com.

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