Putting Down Roots

ROCKWOOL’s Commitment to Job Creation and Economic Development in Jefferson County

With increasing demand for stone wool insulation and the strong economic growth in the Mid-Atlantic region, ROCKWOOL’s selection of Ranson, WV, as the location for its second U.S. facility was a logical fit. The transportation infrastructure, strong industrial heritage and skilled manufacturing workforce combine powerfully with the state’s proximity to the eastern seaboard and ROCKWOOL’s commitment to manufacturing products close to where markets are seeking them.

The company’s long-term commitment to West Virginia will deliver economic benefits and returns. The state-of-the-art 460,000-square-foot Ranson facility is located on 130 acres and is expected to employ 150 workers with salaries of up to $35,000 for technicians and averaging $85,000 for those in leadership roles. This is all accompanied by a comprehensive range of benefits and the opportunity to build meaningful careers with ROCKWOOL in Jefferson County.

The nature of the manufacturer’s supply chain will generate a similar number of non-ROCKWOOL jobs in the industries it relies on, including service, technical and freight. As a result, an estimated $5 million per year in economic activity will be generated by the products and services required to operate and maintain the ROCKWOOL facility.

West Virginia’s legislators and industry groups are working tirelessly to attract businesses and manufacturers to drive economic growth. Incentives such as payment in lieu of taxes—or PILOT—agreements also play a critical role in attracting businesses that are heavily courted by many states in the area.

ROCKWOOL leadership believes in strengthening and tapping into the communities in which its facilities operate. Ninety percent of the company’s global business is local, based on producing products close to its customers and hiring workers from those communities. During the first 10 years of operation, ROCKWOOL expects to pay around $400,000 per year in taxes. Beginning in year 11 of factory operations, the company expects to pay approximately $1,000,000 per year, which means additional revenue sources for the city and county.

With 80 years of manufacturing history behind it and a reputation for being the world’s leading maker of stone wool insulation, ROCKWOOL understands the critical importance of environmental stewardship and the impact of its operations on local communities. Manufacturing works best when there are strong protections for workers and accountability for proper operations by regulatory entities that clearly define expectations.

The new ROCKWOOL facility has been approved based on strict emissions regulations as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with the 1990 Clean Air Act. The limits established specifically to protect the health of sensitive populations, including children, the elderly and asthmatics.

Indeed, a statement from the WVDEP, dated September 18, 2018, declared, “Based on all available information that we have gathered and that we have reviewed, we see no threat to the health of our citizens and no threat to our environment.”

In addition to meeting and exceeding these requirements, ROCKWOOL is also fully funding air monitoring stations in the area near the Ranson facility. Recognizing that some in the community are concerned about the facility’s emissions, this voluntary commitment goes above and beyond the company’s legal obligations and reflects a commitment to providing the community with additional assurance regarding the environmental safety of the facility.

ROCKWOOL is proud of its long history of shared progress marked by community engagement with accountability and transparency and a commitment to building lasting partnerships with local organizations.

ROCKWOOL is excited to be joining and contributing to the proud West Virginia family of businesses and looks forward to creating new opportunities and benefits for Jefferson County and the state. To learn more about the Ranson facility, please visit rockwool.com/west-virginia.