



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2013

Contact:

Marla Taylor Jones, Dir. of Business Development

Economic Development Authority

540.635.2182

www.wceda.com

jones@wceda.com

Warren County Lower Than National Unemployment Rates : Continues to Add New Jobs to the Rolls

March 13, 2013, Front Royal, Virginia: Despite the national unemployment rate of 7.7%, Warren County holds at 5.4% in January 2013 and experiences a steadily declining rate of unemployment.

In 2012, six hundred and fifty-nine new jobs were created by the larger industries in the 340/522N industrial corridor. In addition, 300-400 new temporary construction jobs were created in support of the Dominion Power Plant and the Regional Jail projects.

“In addition, we estimate that in the past two years, 100 new jobs were created in Front Royal and Warren County by various small businesses,” said Jennifer McDonald,

executive director of the Economic Development Authority. "These are healthy numbers in a stagnant economy. We do not have a solid number on those businesses that closed and the numbers of jobs lost, but I would estimate about 25-35 jobs lost to attrition and the sluggish economy."

Ferguson Enterprises, Family Dollar, FDR, Interbake, Atlantic Exhibits, Rappahannock, Interchange, SYSCO and DuPont all added new hires to their employment rolls in 2012. Zachry Construction, the general contractor at the Dominion Power project had 53 layoffs in 2012, due to the completion of certain phases of the construction. However, Zachry hired 397 new workers in 2012.

Despite the fact that 300-400 new jobs in Warren County are temporary construction jobs, revenues from these laborers will account for tens of millions of dollars in the three year span of construction. "Those numbers account for food, goods and hotel/motel stays over the duration of the projects," said McDonald.

Dominion Power will hire about 35 new permanent employees and the Regional Jail will hire about 125-150 new permanent employees at the completion of construction.

"Business retention and expansion are critically important to our economic health. Warren County continues to experience steady growth in its jobs numbers," said McDonald. "and that is good news for our community."

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