



## PRESS RELEASE

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**July 15, 2004**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **NW PA Strives to Attract New Industry and Retain Existing Industry**

Industry cost comparison reports to aid in the crusade to keep region in the global game

**Oil City, PA**--The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission has hired internationally known architecture/engineering, real estate and site selection firm, **Carter Burgess**, to develop five cost comparison reports to analyze the region's industry and workforce competitiveness on a national and global level.

The reports, which will be officially released to the public on July 21, 2004, are comparing the region's existing industries of plastics, hardwoods, machining, tooling and the emerging biomedical industry in Northwest Pennsylvania (NW PA) with similar communities across the globe.

Costs were derived from actual field research in NW PA and telephone research on competitor communities. The latest available data was used for all cost comparisons. In addition, other regional conditions related to the five industries are examined.

In each target industry profile will be location factors including:

- Labor force availability and quality
- Labor costs
- Sites and buildings
- Infrastructure
- Transportation/logistics
- Supplier/customer connections
- Incentives

There will be an informative presentation made to economic development, tourism, and Chamber of Commerce entities on July 21, 2004 at 10 AM in Erie and 5:30 PM in West Middlesex. On July 22-23, 2004 **Chabin Concepts, Inc.**, specialists in site selection/real estate marketing, will lead a regional marketing/branding seminar focusing on image enhancement and web site data as they relate to the economic development sectors in our region.

The Northwest Commission plans to create the most effective method of developing business prospects through using the data and information shared by the cost comparison reports and the marketing seminars using target industry marketing. This process will involve gaining a complete understanding of industry growth trends at the regional, national, and global level.



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### Target Industry 2/2

Funding for the target industry cost comparison reports was provided by Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) marketing funds, and the project is heavily supported by the regional KOZ marketing committee and managers, as well as the eight lead Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs).

Established in 1967, the Northwest Commission is an Oil City based, non-profit ARC, EDA and PA DCED certified economic development agency composed of a team of skilled professionals dedicated to sustaining economic vitality and growth in the Northwest Pennsylvania region by fostering local, state, and federal partnerships across public and private sector lines. The Northwest Commission provides economic development, government contracting, transportation, business marketing and financing, and technology assistance to eight counties in Northwest Pennsylvania including: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren.

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