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natural resource professionals/design and construction

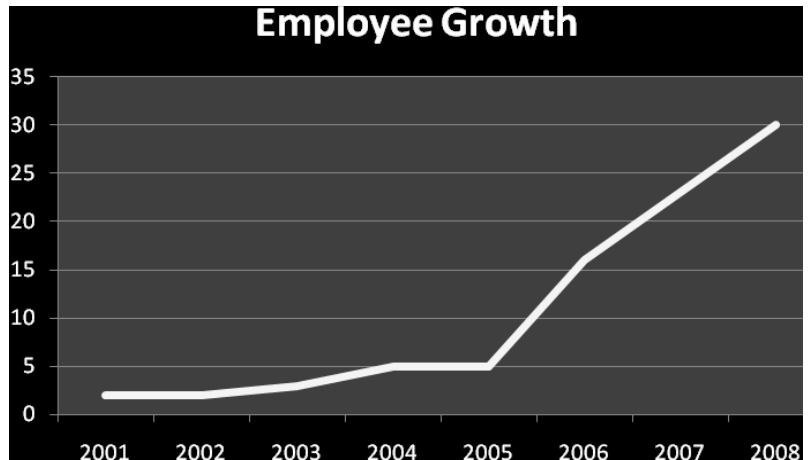
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Engineering, Environmental and Construction Firm Creates Local Jobs

(Hermitage, PA)—Wallace & Pancher, Inc. (WPI) is reporting an estimated 60 percent growth in revenue and 38 percent growth in employment as of September 30, 2008.

WPI has created 18 new professional jobs in the past two years in a region where the unemployment rate has increased to 7.1 percent, compared to the national unemployment rate of 6.1 percent. The seven year old engineering, environmental and construction firm is attracting employees from the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Harrisburg, and Cleveland markets.



To accommodate growth, WPI recently completed a 4,800 square foot expansion to the firm's home office in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. Community leaders and clients celebrated during a private Open House held on October 2, 2008. Guests included Pennsylvania State Representatives Mark Longietti and Dick Stevenson.

Representative Longietti quotes, "Wallace & Pancher is the type of home-grown, small business that is critical to the economic future of the Shenango Valley. Their focus on environmental engineering has led to remarkable growth and the creation of good-paying jobs that are connected to the ever-growing green economy."

Representative Stevenson, serving as the Pennsylvania Minority Chairman of the Sub Committee on Mining for the Environmental Resources, adds, "As energy development and exploration expand with America's move toward the goal of greater energy independence, Wallace and Pancher, Inc. is ideally positioned to assist coal and gas producers while simultaneously protecting the environment. It is exciting to see their growth and success as it expands from their base in Mercer County."

Daniel Wallace and Brian Pancher, co-owners of WPI, established the business in 2001 in Wallace's basement. For the next two years the partners dedicated their time and energy into the launch of the business. In 2003 they hired their first employee and have been rapidly growing since.

"Our growth has been a blessing and a challenge to manage in a controlled fashion," Wallace comments. "The challenge is finding highly qualified people to fill new positions as quickly as possible."

The firm hired 10 employees in 2006, 8 more the next year, and 10 as of September of this year. An annual summer internship program began in 2006 and is gaining popularity. The program draws students from eastern Ohio and western and central Pennsylvania.



Pictured from left: George Gerhart (Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce), John Burglund (Assistant Project Manager), Antoinette Wallace, Dan Wallace, P.E. (Owner), Brian Pancher (Owner), Amy Pancher (Office Manager), Mark Longiotti (Pennsylvania State Representative), Jeffery Wallace (First National Bank)

Pancher remarks, "If I had to choose one word to describe WPI it would be energetic—both given by the enthusiasm of the employees and the drive and tenacity of Dan and I in pursuing the original idea and philosophy for our firm."

WPI's mission is to bridge the gap between engineering and ecology while helping developers and project stakeholders create projects that result in the least amount of impact to the environment and achieving their goals. The company provides services in environmental planning and permitting, natural resource studies, as well as design and construction services to a diverse group of clients in the private and public sector.

Pancher comments, "We give more than what's expected to our clients and we make sure our employees understand that philosophy. I also believe it is important for our company and employees to be active within the local community through volunteer planting days or educational outreach."

WPI is planning to open a branch office in southwestern Pennsylvania in spring of 2009. They also anticipate significant growth in the engineering, environmental and construction divisions, including increased involvement in the coal and natural gas industries.

"The reason for the rapid growth in our company is fundamental. It's quality work and customer service. We're very excited about the future," Wallace says.

More information is available about WPI at wallacepancher.com.