

Burlington County Times

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Transportation company A. Duie Pyle has set up shop in Westampton at the former site of New Century Transportation.

Pennsylvania.

"We had been looking in the area from Westampton all the way up to Trenton for a facility," said Randy Swart, company chief operating officer. "Then New Century became available, and it was right in the area where we were looking."

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By Dubravka Kolumbic Correspondent

WESTAMPTON — In an almost seamless transition, Northeast transportation company A. Duie Pyle set up shop at the former site of New Century Transportation just six months after New Century abruptly shut down as a result of bankruptcy, leaving 1,500 employees without jobs.

A. Duie Pyle, which has been in the trucking business for 90 years, officially opened Dec. 1.

The site on East Park Drive will service Central and South Jersey for the company, which was previously served by centers in East Brunswick, Middlesex County; and in West Chester and Allentown,

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New Century, a nationwide shipper, was not a direct competitor of A. Duie Pyle, which only picks up and delivers freight in the Northeast, Swart said. A. Duie Pyle is a less than truckload (LTL) shipper, which means it picks up smaller freight from various shippers and consolidates them onto one truck. The West Chester company has terminals from Baltimore to Maine and as far west as Ohio. The Burlington County center will allow the company to relieve some of the load at its other sites.

"The West Chester, East Brunswick and Carteret terminals were about at capacity," Swart said. "We were looking to add another facility, and this one will be right in between them all."

The company also was able to hire some of New Century's laid-off workers.

"A lot of good employees had been there before in exactly the same line of work as we are," Swart said, "so it was a great opportunity to purchase the building and take on some of the employees that were there already."

Altogether, A. Duie Pyle hired about 45 New Century employees, including 10 office workers. Some New Century drivers were hired at other A. Duie Pyle service centers. Swart said the company, which has been nonunion since the 1970s, supports its employees' involvement in charitable community activities, often volunteering trucks and employees for such endeavors.

Township officials helped facilitate an expeditious move for the company.

"The town has been great. Since it was the same use as before, there were no occupancy issues. Anyone we called on in the township was out there very timely. It allowed us to purchase the facility and set it up in really good time," Swart said.

Mayor Carolyn Chang could not be reached for comment.

The size of the local building allowed for quick occupancy, as well as for the potential for growth.

"We expect to grow quite quickly," Swart said. "The layout of the facility gives us the opportunity to put in a warehouse. At 32 acres, it's the largest facility we have, acreage-wise. There's a lot of space there (including about 20,000 square feet of office space).

"As we build redundancy and grow, we plan on growing in the administrative side as well as the transportation side."

A new facility planned for Long Island, New York, will add more territory to the Westampton site, Swart said.

One advantage A. Duie Pyle has over its competitors is the more than 480 heated trailers and docks that allow it to transport temperature-sensitive items, he said.

In addition, all of its trailers have air-suspension systems, which ensure a smooth ride for the freight, something Swart said is especially needed because of the rough condition of many roads in the Northeast.