

[Print Page](#)

Last modified: Thursday, December 31, 2009 7:22 PM MST

Pipeline company moving to Cheyenne

By Michelle Dynes

mdynes@wyomingnews.com

CHEYENNE - A manufacturing company has announced that it will expand to Cheyenne next year.

Midwestern Pipeline Company will begin constructing a 55-acre plant next year and hire workers for 35 to 50 manufacturing positions. The oil and gas pipeline service business also plans to relocate its headquarters from California to Cheyenne three to four years after opening the new facility.

But the move wouldn't have been possible without an industrial development that provides convenient access to major rail lines and interstates.

The Casper-based Granite Peak Development has teamed up with the McMurry family to develop a 1,500-acre industrial park on the

Swan Ranch, which sits along Interstate 25 south of Interstate 80. A Union Pacific Railroad line borders the park to the west, while a Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway line crosses through the south and east.

More than 20 companies have decided not to come to Cheyenne because no location offered this access, said Scott Sutherland, vice president of Cheyenne LEADS. Part of Cheyenne's attraction is that it sits at the intersections of two railroad lines and two interstates. Proximity to these intersections would improve efficiency and reduce transportation costs.

But with nothing available, representatives from Cheyenne LEADS had nothing to show potential business owners.

"We have lost companies because we couldn't provide adequate access," said Cheyenne LEADS Chief Executive Officer Randy Bruns.

He added that this new development south of Cheyenne provides this capacity.

The Cheyenne Logistics Hub will be similar to Casper's logistics center, offering lot sizes that can be tailored to a customer's needs. The hub also will partner with Bighorn Divide and Wyoming Railroad to operate a transloading facility to move shipments for the companies that use the site for distributing, warehousing or manufacturing their products.

Jack Dubois, vice president for Midwestern Pipeline Services, said Cheyenne LEADS played a large part in the company's yearlong site search and the final decision to expand into Cheyenne. The organization also worked with Burlington Northern to get direct rail access on the property.

The pipeline company specializes in the double joint welding of steel pipe, the application of anti-corrosion coatings and other services for the oil and gas industry. Dubois said Wyoming's robust energy industry makes the state a good place for relocation.

The commitment from one company to expand at the Cheyenne Logistics Hub should create a domino effect that will encourage other companies to consider the property, said Bethany Perez, marketing director for Granite Peak Development.