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Dennen Steel Corp. Announces Location of Manufacturing Facility in Iuka, Miss.; Creates 50 New Jobs

Officials from Dennen Steel Corp. have announced the company is locating manufacturing operations at Yellow Creek Port in Iuka, Miss., in order to better serve its customers in the southeastern United States. The project represents a company investment of more than \$7.4 million and will create 50 new jobs in northeast Mississippi. From the Tishomingo County location, the company will manufacture steel slit coil, precision stampings, fabricated metal parts and tooling and assemblies.

MDA provided assistance to Tishomingo County for infrastructure improvements at the site of the company's new 50,000-square-foot facility. The Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority also provided assistance for the project.

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich., Dennen Steel is dedicated to supporting customers with its integrated supply chain management model. From direct steel mill purchasing through coil slitting and low- and high-volume contract manufacturing, the company serves leading manufacturers in a diverse range of industries. To learn more, please visit www.dennensteel.com.

MDA Awards Nearly \$79,000 for Two Improvement Projects in State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** and **Small Municipalities and Limited Population**

County Grant Program (SMLPC) funding for two improvement projects in the state. To receive **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. **SMLPC** funds are used for publicly-owned infrastructure for community-based projects such as drainage systems, water and sewer systems, roads and bridges and buildings. Funding from this program can only be used by small municipalities and counties. **The awards, which total approximately \$79,000, include:**

- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - City of Morton - \$34,911.03 for infrastructure improvements
- **SMLPC**
 - Town of Cary - \$44,000 for infrastructure improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org and click on the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Destination Video Reports Part of Oil Spill Recovery Campaign

MDA's Tourism Division has introduced the first in a series of video updates regarding the Mississippi Gulf Coast's tourism opportunities in light of the oil spill situation. These videos, along with more recent updates, may be viewed on the Internet and social media sites such as YouTube and Facebook. The first video report was filmed on July 2 in Gulfport while the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo was taking place. The second video was filmed two days later at the foot of the Ocean Springs-Biloxi Bay Bridge in Ocean Springs. Funded from a recovery grant made available through BP, two-to-three videos per week will be produced throughout the upcoming months to help inform potential travelers to the coast of current conditions and to bolster tourism in the state's three coastal counties.

According to MDA Tourism Division Director Mary Beth Wilkerson, the Mississippi Gulf Coast offers visitors incredible experiences in spite of problems related to the oil spill in the Gulf. The videos will highlight casino resorts, championship golf courses, events, restaurants and unique shops as tourist attractions whose livelihoods are independent of the beach.

To view the first two video reports, search "Visit MS Coast" on YouTube, "Visit Mississippi Coast" on Facebook, or visit www.visitmscoast.org.

The Blues Trail: From Mississippi to Maine

On July 8, 2010, a Mississippi Blues Trail marker was dedicated at Two Park Drive in Rockland, Maine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Blues Festival. Entitled "The Blues Trail: Mississippi to Maine," the marker is the 110th to be dedicated since the trail was initiated in 2006.

The placement of the marker - the seventh to be dedicated outside of Mississippi - showcases the importance of the blues across the United States. It also commemorates the influence Mississippi artists have had on the development of blues scenes outside of the state. Locations of additional out-of-state Blues Trail markers include Memphis, Tenn., Chicago, Ill., Muscle Shoals, Ala., Helena, Ark., and Ferriday, La.

For more information about the Mississippi Blues Trail, please visit www.msbluestrail.org or explore the official website of MDA's Tourism Division at www.visitmississippi.org.

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