

Wilhite brings experience to Lee Companies team

Gary, IN - When it comes to pre-engineered building projects, Lee Companies, 563 S. Lake St., is steeling itself to step ahead of the competition.

The Miller Beach area Project Management and Development firm recently established a full service pre-engineered steel structure division and became an authorized dealer for Varco Pruden Buildings.

"We wanted to offer our clients a direct connection to the world's largest pre-engineered building manufacturer," said Patrick M. Lee, president of Lee Companies.

Varco Pruden Buildings specializes in computer-aided design and fabrication of pre-engineered steel construction systems for low-rise, non-residential buildings. The company works closely with its dealers to offer structures that combine aesthetic appeal with optimum functionality.

"Varco Pruden is the highest-quality, most flexible manufacturer in the industry," Lee continued. "Every building type is available including airplane hangars, churches, warehouses, office complexes, schools, retail stores... you name it."

Each year, VP Buildings, headquartered in Memphis, Tenn., manufactures approximately 6,000 buildings ranging from 1,200 square feet to more than 1 million square feet under one roof.

To aid in this new endeavor, Lee Companies has recruited Douglas W. Wilhite as

its Pre-Engineered Building Manager. Wilhite, born in Knoxville, Tenn. but a life-long northwest Indiana resident, brings 40 years of experience in pre-engineered buildings with the majority of that experience in the Varco Pruden product line.

"Doug is the acknowledged expert in pre-engineered structures in the region," said Lee. "We've done business with him in the past and always admired his expertise and commitment."

Wilhite expressed his enthusiasm regarding his new position. "I've known Pat for a few years now and he's really committed to high quality construction at fair and reasonable prices. Lee Company's stellar reputation and substantial push into the area of green building were also big enticements. Steel is the ultimate recycled product."

Lee and his Senior Project Managers are LEED Accredited Professionals. LEED is the acronym for the United States Green Building Council program for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. LEED AP's are trained to deliver the highest performing buildings, both inside and outside, that meet their clients needs. The low cost delivery of high performing buildings is the latest step in sustainable construction that Lee Companies has promoted for decades

"We're excited and extremely pleased to finally get Doug on our team," Lee added. "His high standards and commitment to customer satisfaction perfectly fit our company culture. Doug will be relentless in providing creative and economi-



Douglas Wilhite

cal solutions to our clients pre-engineered building needs."

Lee said his team's focus is the low cost delivery of high performing buildings that meet their clients' goals. This is something Wilhite agrees with wholeheartedly. "I'm looking forward to helping Pat grow this business," he said. "We want to bring the greatest service possible to our customers."



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