

Firm moves abatement equipment to Moyock

■ East Coast Abatement relocates equipment to Currituck industrial park

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MOYOCK — After encountering problems locating his company's storage yard in Chesapeake, Va., East Coast Abatement owner Rick Webb decided to try his luck south of the border.

He purchased property in Moyock in Currituck County and is currently awaiting site plan approval for the storage yard. If the plans are approved, Webb plans to put in a 170-foot-long, 60-foot-wide metal building on the property, where some equipment already is kept.

Webb's work, mostly for federal government agencies, involves both demolition and abatement.

"Abatement is to go in and remove environmental problems

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- Rick Webb

like asbestos and lead paint," explained Webb, 35, a Currituck resident.

Webb said having his equipment near — his main office is located in Chesapeake — and the growth potential of the area were factors in his decision to locate in Moyock.

But his difficulty getting the necessary permits for the storage yard

in Chesapeake also contributed.

"We wanted to go somewhere that wants business and wants to develop business," he said. "It (Moyock) seemed to me like an area that's going to grow."

What will be stored at the storage yard?

"All my dump trailers, tractor trailers, escalators, 'dozers, fuel tanks... all my equipment it takes to run a demolition and environmental cleanup business."

In addition to equipment, the company may bring jobs to the county. During the summer, Webb said, the company payroll grows to about 80 workers.

"The company is a good asset, not just for the industrial park, but to the whole county," said Currituck County Economic Development Director John Mulvey, who assisted the company with planning.

The company will benefit, Mulvey said, from Currituck County's low tax rate and lower insurance, while the county will

benefit from the property tax income.

Attracting business, like East Coast Abatement, is a goal of local officials seeking to diversify the county's tax base.

Businesses contribute to county coffers while demanding few services. Residential development, on the other hand, is expensive for the county, because residents require costly services, in particular schools.

Although most of the company's work is in Virginia, they recently have been doing some work for the U.S. Coast Guard in Elizabeth City.

"We just completed ripping out the ceiling of the metal blimp hangar" in Elizabeth City, he said, and are about half finished cleaning up the burned remains of the wooden blimp hangar.

So far, Webb is enthusiastic about his company's new move in Currituck.

"I felt like the people wanted us in there," he said. "... Everyone's been very helpful. It's been great."