

Cleveland, Tennessee Recipient of Prestigious 2010 Development Award

Tennessee, and, by extension, Cleveland, has earned “Area Development” magazine’s 2010 Silver Shovel Award in the 5-to-10 million population category. “Area Development” is a publication dealing with economic development. States with successful, innovative and significant economic development, along with concerted effort, in the last year were singled out in the June/July 2010 issue.

The Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce announced the honor at a recent Economic Development Council meeting at the Chamber. The Chamber works diligently to promote the area, and to make positive and successful business connections while developing significant economic projects in the city of Cleveland and in Bradley County. Through this award alone, Tennessee not only received the new recognition, but Cleveland or Bradley County or Tennessee or WACKER was mentioned several times in the article explaining how and why the award was earned.

“Now it’s being looked at by those people who make decisions on where to locate,” said Doug Berry, vice president of economic development for the local Chamber. He said the readership isn’t just local or national, it is international. And it is hoped that receiving this award will show even more potential businesses why this area is the right choice for them as well, Berry explained.

Tennessee received the Silver Shovel award largely because of the WACKER project, officials said. “It’s the lead project in Tennessee,” Berry said. “This project means we were one of the leading states for employment and economic development.” WACKER’s decision to move to Cleveland was favorably influenced by the available power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the proximity of Olin and its manufacturing of chlorine, and how easy it is to get around in the county, according to the magazine. Additionally, the awardees were said to have found the “winning formula” over the past year in how to find and develop investments in their community through innovative approaches.

Based in Munich, Germany, WACKER bought about 550 acres in Bradley County in order to build a plant to manufacture hyperpure polycrystalline silicon which is needed to produce photovoltaics for solar energy and semiconductors. It is estimated the project will generate \$1 billion in investments and 500 jobs.