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Chazen Companies Plans Office In Region

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The Chazen Companies, a professional-services firm based in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., has announced that it will be opening an office in southeastern Connecticut, concentrating on civil engineering, land development, land surveying and environmental services.

The office will provide jobs to as many as five employees initially, including two engineers. It likely will be located in Waterford or New London.

"We've been doing work in the southeastern Connecticut area, working with clients looking at land-development opportunities," said Doug McClure, vice president for environmental services for Chazen, in a phone interview.

Steven Hess, who has been named senior director of New England operations for Chazen, will head up the local office. Hess has worked more than 20 years in Connecticut and Rhode Island, specializing in land development and real estate.

Chazen, a 60-year-old company, does about \$20 million in business annually. It has about 150 employees throughout the Northeast, with branch offices in Newburgh, Troy and Glens Falls, N.Y.

"This is part of our latest strategic initiative," said Richard Chazen, the firm's principal and president, in a statement. "We're excited to have a permanent presence in Connecticut."

McClure said the company is currently working with the Navy as well as private developers he declined to name. In the past, Chazen has done work on residential, commercial and retail projects, as well as forging alliances with colleges and universities.

Its biggest project so far, McClure said, involves more than 1,000 residences in a golf resort that includes retail space as well.

It also has worked on brownfield development sites similar to the former Norwich State Hospital.

"We see a lot of opportunities in southeastern Connecticut," he said. "We see that part of the state as growing and underserved."

For more information, go to the Web site www.chazencompanies.com.

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