



# NEWS

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## **Watco Companies expands service offerings to Wyoming**

**PITTSBURG, KS, August 1, 2008**—Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco) announced today a new operation began providing industrial switching services in Wyoming. Serving Solvay Chemicals in Green River, this operation is Watco’s first in Wyoming.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide services in the great state of Wyoming,” said Mark Blazer, Senior Vice President, Business Development. “This location is a key strategic fit for Watco and we see strong potential for not only future switching operations, but other rail-related opportunities as well,” he said.

Solvay Chemicals is a world leading producer of essential chemicals like soda ash, caustic soda, hydrogen peroxide and specialty chemicals like fluorinated products and ultra-fine fillers. Watco anticipates switching 30,000 carloads of soda ash at Solvay Chemicals Green River location. Soda ash is used in the manufacturing of glass, silicates and other products.

“Many members of the Watco Team worked diligently to secure the bid to provide industrial switching to Solvay Chemical,” Blazer said. “Without their help it would not have been possible for us to grow our business in this state.”

The addition of Wyoming brings the total number of states with Watco operations to 24.

Watco Companies, Inc., a Pittsburg, Kansas, based company, operates 17 shortline railroads in 15 states. Additionally, Watco operates industrial switching locations, mechanical railcar and locomotive shops and intermodal/transload locations across the United States. The owner of Millennium Rail, Inc., Fitzgerald Railcar Services and Reload Inc., Watco also owns and operates 14 mechanical shops in the U.S. and prides itself on providing an integrated one-on-one partnership with its Customers. More information about Watco and its affiliates can be found at [www.watcocompanies.com](http://www.watcocompanies.com).

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