### **Commonwealth of Virginia**



### **Department of Minority Business Enterprise**

1111 E. Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.DMBE.Virginia.gov

Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For additional information contact Samuel Hayes, III at (804) 786-5560

Enhancements to Virginia Business Certification Database for Small, Women- and Minority-owned Businesses Complete

The Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise announced today that expanded search features to its database for Small, Women- or Minority-owned ("SWaM") Businesses are now available for access on its website at <a href="https://www.DMBE.Virginia.gov">www.DMBE.Virginia.gov</a>. State buyers and private companies searching for SWaM businesses or participants in the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, can now search geographically with specific commodity codes in the online database. This enhanced search feature also allows you to search for up to 10 zip codes to find selected groups of certified vendors that have been certified with specific codes (e.g., NIGP).

Applicants for SWaM certification can now view their certification application status online by clicking on the link <u>SWaM Certification Application Status</u> located on the right column of the website. An applicant's status can be obtained by entering a certification tracking number or a portion of the company's name. Information about the status of the application, date of application, all documents received or missing, and any necessary information being requested.

The Department has also implemented a new tracking system for incoming mail, which primarily includes certification applications. This system provides real-time posting of online application submissions, electronic tracking of submitted applications and/or supporting documents, workload tracking, and improved customer service options.

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"These enhancements to our certification database are but one example of our efforts to make certification a more business-friendly process and to continue Virginia's role as the most business-friendly state in the nation," said Samuel Hayes, III, agency director. "There is still more to accomplish," said Hayes, "and ultimately our goal is to have increased customer service and satisfaction."

Mission of the Department of Minority Business Enterprise: Working collaboratively with public and private industries, the Department of Minority Business Enterprise will aggressively pursue supplier diversity by creating contracting opportunities and promoting fairness in the state's procurement process for Small, Women- and Minority-owned Businesses.

The Department of Minority Business Enterprise is an executive branch agency under the Secretary of Administration, Honorable Viola O. Baskerville. For more information, please visit the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise's website at <a href="https://www.DMBE.Virginia.gov">www.DMBE.Virginia.gov</a> or call (804) 786-5560.

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# Certification Application Status Search

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Small, Women and Minority (SWaM) Certification Status Search			
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Search result f	Search result for Tracking Number = 4430		
Tracking #	004430		
Company name	BEL FOODS, INC.		
Status	Pending		
Online Application Submit Date	05-13-2005		
Signed Application Receive Date	01-21-2008		
Supporting Document Receive Date	01-25-2008		
Additional Document	Request Document: Photo ID, Business License, Bank Documents, Driver's License Request Date: 02-14-2008 Receive Date: 02-20-2008		