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North Alabama Industrial
Development Association

PowerSouth Energy
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Conners Island Business Park receives AdvantageSite designation

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 7 – Conners Island Business Park in Guntersville, Ala. has received an AdvantageSite designation.

The park, owned by the Guntersville Industrial Development Board, is located within a HubZone—an important factor for many government contractors.

"Having the AdvantageSite designation for the park is a huge boost to our efforts. It adds a level of credibility that provides reassurance for companies who want to ensure the smoothest possible business location process," said David Jones, chairman of the Guntersville IDB.

"Conners Island Business Park is a key component of *Vision Guntersville*," said Guntersville Mayor Bob Hembree. "With its proximity to Huntsville and BRAC activity, Conners Island provides an ideal setting for companies wanting to take advantage of North Alabama's growth. The AdvantageSite designation gives companies confidence that Conners Island has made the right preparations to facilitate their success."

The AdvantageSite program requires that community economic development organizations provide documentation specific to a proposed industrial site, including a set of standard data related to ownership/control, environmental and geotechnical conditions, and infrastructure status.

Sites must also meet size, zoning and accessibility requirements.

"AdvantageSite designation for Conners Island is important to our marketing efforts," said Matt Arnold, president and CEO of the Marshall County Economic Development Council. "Conners Island features a beautiful setting with access to a diverse and skilled workforce. It complements the overall package that Marshall County has to offer and is part of the reason why North Alabama is such an attractive area for high-tech businesses."

"The AdvantageSite process was a great experience for our community," said Grant DeMuth, City of Guntersville economic development director. "It was a team effort by the city, the Guntersville Industrial Development Board and the Marshall County Economic Development Council. The fact that we work well together is a significant factor in making Conners Island a strong business location. That attitude will pay dividends for companies that locate here."

Greg Knighton, a vice president at the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, agrees.

"One of Alabama's great strengths is our ability to work well together in teams. The AdvantageSite program is a good example of that. Not only do you have the type of teamwork evidenced here in Guntersville and Marshall County, but you have a public-private group working together strategically to administer the program to raise the bar for economic development across the state."

The AdvantageSite program is jointly sponsored by the Alabama Development Office, Alabama Gas Corporation, Alabama Power Company, EDPA, the North Alabama Industrial Development Association and PowerSouth Energy Cooperative.

The voluntary industrial site preparedness program was created in order to make the state more competitive for companies considering a location in Alabama.

For more information on the AdvantageSite program, please visit www.edpa.org/bsc/advantagesitepublic.asp.