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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON MARKLAND BUSINESS PARK

Vevay, IN (Monday, October 27, 2008) –

Construction is expected to begin early next week on the Markland Business Park. Work is expected to continue as weather allows into 2009. The first task will be the installation of a new water line from near the Belterra Casino to the site. Water service will be provided by the Patriot Water Company. Early roadway construction is expected to begin at the site by the end of the year.

The beginning of construction marks the end of a long planning and design phase for the project. In order to present a more attractive site to prospective employers, county leaders have taken the time to conduct all pre-construction planning and permitting before marketing the site. The entire process of getting the necessary permits to begin development took just over 18 months.

“If we had not done this work up front, any business coming in would have a year and a half wait before they could start building,” said Jon Bond of the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation. “They are not going to wait that long on us when our competition can get them started in two months.” By the end of the first construction phase, a typical business would be able to start building within 45 days. This will make Switzerland County competitive with industrial parks in other communities.

The Markland Business Park was originally studied in 1994. A ten-year plan to develop and market the property was created in 2006. The site was one of twenty certified by the State of Indiana as *Shovel Ready* in early 2007 but there was still development that needed to occur before the site could accommodate a business.

The first phase of construction is expected to be completed by mid-2009. At that time, the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation will begin marketing the site to prospective businesses. The 2006 site development plan called for the first phase of construction to be complete before beginning any marketing. Even without advertising, early interest in the property by prospective businesses has been encouraging.

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Over one mile of water line awaits installation by the Patriot Water Company. Once installed, the new line will extend from near the Belterra Casino to the Markland Business Park