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BUSINESS PARK NEARS COMPLETION OF PLANNING PHASE
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS FALL

Switzerland County, IN (Friday, August 22, 2008) –

The first phase of development of the Markland Business Park is expected to be completed soon. Switzerland County purchased the property for the facility in March, 2007. Formal planning for the park began in early April, 2007, with the hope of initiating utility and infrastructure construction within 18 months. 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 planning phase of the project has involved more than just site work. The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has been visiting industrial parks throughout the Midwest to identifying what facility layouts have been successful in other areas. Interviews have also been held with site location consultants and industrial real estate specialists to determine what park designs might be appealing to prospective businesses.

Site development planning for the project has included coordination with the utilities that are be expected to service the park and identification of what upgrades will be needed for utility systems in the area and what utility easements will be needed inside the park. Approval of the overall site development plan was needed from several state agencies. This included approval of the facility's roadway and drainage plans.

As this planning phase nears completion, construction is expected to begin in the fall. The first construction project is likely to be the widening of the main water line by the Patriot Water Company and installation of water lines into the park. Additional projects expected to begin within the next six months include the installation of electrical service and early roadway construction. The first phase of construction is expected to complete in mid-2009.

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