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## **SWITZERLAND COUNTY EARNS “SHOVEL READY” STATUS FOR MARKLAND BUSINESS PARK**

STATE DESIGNATES MARKLAND SITE AS READY TO BUILD

**Indianapolis, IN (Monday, March 12, 2007)** – Switzerland County has completed an important step in the development of the Markland Business Park by earning a *Shovel Ready* designation by the state of Indiana. Indiana’s *Shovel Ready* program identifies sites which have undergone extensive title work, proof of ownership, legal and environmental review and qualify for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies. *Shovel Ready* certification allows prospective businesses to identify sites that can be developed quickly without long delays for engineering and permitting.

*Shovel Ready* sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam), which consists of representatives from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor’s Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security. Certified sites have been eligible for matching grants to assist with eligible costs associated with applying for the *Shovel Ready* program.

Currently, only twenty sites in Indiana are certified as *Shovel Ready*.

Switzerland County has purchased 117 acres near the Markland Bridge, to provide development sites to prospective businesses. “*Shovel Ready* certification is an important step in the development of the site,” said Jon Bond, of the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation. “We still have some work to do before we are ready to start aggressively marketing the property.” Current plans call for the completion of the initial site development by the fall of 2007.

“This is a long term investment for the community,” said Bond. “A well-planned business park can take five to ten years to fill with the right mix of businesses. Once we have quality sites available, we can be more selective about what types of industry we want in our community.”

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