

## NEWS RELEASE

### **HUNTSVILLE MEGA SITE CERTIFIED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Huntsville, Alabama (June 15, 2016) – The Tennessee Valley Authority, the City of Huntsville, the Limestone County Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County announced today that a 1,252-acre site off Powell Road in Limestone County has been officially certified as a TVA Mega Site.

“With this certification in hand, the Huntsville Mega Site is well positioned for a wide range of large-scale projects from major companies based around the world,” said Governor Robert Bentley. “The Huntsville area has been a main driver of growth for the state, and this will make it even more attractive for new investment and well-paying jobs.”

Having a certified TVA mega site positions the Huntsville community to compete internationally for large manufacturing projects.

“The certification is our international calling card telling global manufacturers we are open for business and a prime place for industry and jobs,” said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. “This site should attract a high tech, high end company for worldwide customers.”

In order for a site to be certified, it must be at least 1,000 acres with Interstate access, have the potential for rail service, and utility service capable of serving a major manufacturing company.

“This announcement is an important step in bringing more jobs and investment to northern Alabama, but its impact extends much further,” said Bill Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority. “The entire economy of the Tennessee Valley is a seamless web of communities that support and strengthen each other, so the creation of the Huntsville Mega Site is a victory for the entire Valley.”

During the certification process, the site also must undergo a series of due diligence studies to determine the capacity of the land to accommodate a manufacturing operation. It also must show that no damage would be done to the environmental, historical or cultural nature of the surrounding area.

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To site selectors, a fully certified mega site sends a green light to companies looking to locate to a site where all of the “homework” has been done and that there are no obstacles for development. This “homework” is essential in today’s competitive marketplace as it provides a quicker timetable for development and makes the decision process much easier.

TVA has had proven success with 5 of the 7 previously certified TVA mega sites, landing major industrial projects with investment of over \$5 billion. The Huntsville Mega Site was certified by McCallum Sweeney Consulting.

“The location decision process demands available sites, and those sites need to be ready for development. By achieving certification, the economic development team has proven that the Huntsville Mega Site is ready for development,” said Kimberly L. Williams, principal at McCallum Sweeney Consulting.

The Huntsville Mega Site is in the heart of the industrial development expansion zone for our region and community and county leaders are excited about the possibilities.

“TVA is not just giving us an opportunity to succeed, but to lead. Their ‘best in class’ power generation and our existing interstates, water, sewer, and natural gas capabilities, our second to none workforce, and our local leader’s commitment to economic development, allows Limestone County to compete globally,” said Limestone County Commission Chairman Mark Yarborough. “I would like to thank TVA President Bill Johnson, as well as Board Chairman Joe Ritch for making these opportunities available for the citizens of Limestone County, and North Alabama.”

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