

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Porte County Industrial Park Awarded “State Certified Shovel Ready” Designation

LA PORTE, Ind. (October 26, 2007) — North Pointe Business Park was joined today by 10 other industrial parks across the state in receiving the “Shovel Ready” designation, paving the way for businesses to quickly locate their businesses on a property that is ready for development. The site in La Porte will be the first site to earn the designation in Northwest Indiana.

A shovel ready site is an area that has undergone extensive legal and environmental review and qualifies for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies. The Shovel Ready Program lowers the cost of site development, improves efficiency of state permitting and enhances the marketability of the site. Because site information is available before development, potential risks of investing and improving new land are reduced for businesses.

“With more and more companies looking for sites where they can have a shovel in the ground as quickly as possible, this program gives Indiana an advantage when it comes to competing with other states for new investments and new jobs,” said Nathan Feltman, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. “This is another vital tool in our economic development toolbox that will help give Indiana the edge when attracting new and promising investment to the state.”

North Pointe Business Park is owned by Viking Development, a subsidiary of Larson Danielson Construction Company located at 302 Tyler Street in La Porte. The parcel is located on State Highway 39 North a half mile south of the La Porte Toll Road Exit and across from Briar Leaf Golf Course. There are approximately 24 developable acres available in the business park to accommodate commercial and industrial businesses. “We are excited to be certified as a Shovel Ready Site,” stated Tim Larson of Larson Danielson Construction Company. “This will help assure anyone wanting to build in our development that there will not be any long delays in securing permits. This site is ready to build on.”

The Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation submitted North Pointe Business Park for the application. “North Pointe Business Park has all of the attributes to be successful for development. Above all is the location so close to the Indiana Toll Road,” said Timothy Gropp, Executive Director of GLEDC. “We are excited to be approved for the Shovel Ready designation. Our hope is this will give our county an edge when developers and site selectors are choosing locations.”

“This is just another example of our organizations, businesses and government working together for the betterment of our County,” said Jerry Cooley, President of the La Porte County Council. “Economic development is a priority in La Porte County and we are pleased to have one more advantage in attracting new business. This is another great team effort”

Mayor Leigh Morris echoes those sentiments saying, “This represents another significant step forward in economic development in La Porte County. The site is among the first to be certified in Indiana, and it can be a significant advantage to a prospective employer looking for a new site to select such a site. I want to salute our GLEDC team—Tim Gropp and Bert Cook—for their good work in accomplishing this.”

The eleven new sites join nineteen others across the state that has earned the designation since the state began the program in 2006.

Passed in the 2005 legislative session as part of Governor Daniels' jobs agenda, Shovel Ready sites are certified by the state's Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam). The team 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. These sites are listed on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Site and Building Database at http://www.in.gov/iedc/site/indiana_properties.html.

This online resource allows site selection consultants and businesses to research available commercial and industrial properties that are available for quick development and investment.

"Timing is essential in any business decision and this program helps create a more business-friendly environment," said Brad Moore, the Shovel-Ready project manager for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

For more information on the "Shovel Ready" program or North Pointe Business Park please contact the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation @ (219)324-8584 or www.gledc.com.

About IEDC

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) responds quickly to help businesses locate, grow and thrive in Indiana. The State of Indiana's lead economic development agency, the IEDC oversees Indiana's statewide business attraction and development efforts, coordinates state programs and incentives for companies looking to grow in Indiana, and provides technical assistance, business expertise and funding to Indiana entrepreneurs and high-tech start-ups. The IEDC is led by Indiana Secretary of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer Nathan J. Feltman and governed by a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mitch Daniels. For more information go to www.in.gov/iedc

