

# Shovel Ready

## Indiana's Shovel Ready Program for Economic Development Sites

The Shovel Ready Program is geared toward improving the marketability of Indiana communities in the site selection process. The program plays a vital role in state economic development by helping companies and communities identify sites that can be rapidly developed. To be Shovel Ready certified, a site must have undergone an environmental process and qualified for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies to allow quick investment and expansion

### Benefits

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.

### How It Works

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation will lead the program administration of Shovel Ready and will utilize the FASTeam to deliver the fast track permitting at the State level.

Shovel Ready Sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam), which is composed 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.

### Goals

- Help local communities prepare sites for development by pre-permitting a site as much as possible
- Certify sites to help companies more easily navigate the selection and permitting process
- Generate a list of remaining permits necessary for a specific site
- Help fast-track the remaining state, federal and local business/industry specific permits
- Provide marketing assistance through the IEDC site selection database

### Minimum Standards for Certification

- Executive level community support (Mayor, County Commissioner, Town Council President) demonstrating a local commitment to expedite, when possible, local permitting
- Ownership of property clearly identified; property should be owned or optioned by local economic development organization, local unit of government, developer, end user or utility
- Sufficient infrastructure in place
- Identify water bodies and receiving streams at the site, including a Waters of the State determination
- Topography maps associated with site are supplied
- Environmental assessment of property complete through appropriate Phase I, and if indicated, a Phase II evaluation

#### For additional information please contact:

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## SHOVEL READY PROGRAM -- 8/29/06

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Will these sites receive any special preference or acknowledgement on the state's site selection database?**

**A.** Shovel Ready certified sites will be organized into their own special category on the site selection database at the IEDC webpage. A Shovel Ready logo will be used to accentuate these sites from the rest of the sites listed on the database.

**Q. What agencies are currently involved in the program?**

**A.** The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is charged with running the program, but has worked with several State agencies in the planning and implementation of Shovel Ready. A State technical review team named the FASTeam (Fast Access Site Team) is composed of State employees from different agencies that have roles in the necessary permitting requirements. They include: the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and Indiana State Department of Homeland Security.

**Q. Are there any maximum or minimum acreage requirements to participate in the program?**

**A.** There are no acreage restrictions for the Shovel Ready program.

**Q. What are the eligible expenses that can be reimbursed?**

**A.** Eligible expenses can be found on Appendix IX in the application and include application expenses that a community had to pay for directly (surveys, maps, photographs, environmental studies, etc.) that took place within one year of the application deadline date. A dollar for dollar match is required upon verification of costs incurred by the applicant. Proof of applicable costs involved in preparing the application will need to be provided by the applicant such as invoices, etc. There is no guarantee that funds will be available to the Shovel Ready Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of applications.

**Q. Will any site visits be made?**

**A.** Site visits will take place during the certification process for the most competitive applications.

**Q. What are the minimum standards to participate in the program?**

**A.** Community support, site control of property, infrastructure in place (or acceptable plan to bring infrastructure), phase I environmental review complete, and a completed water delineation. Please review page one of the Pilot Shovel Ready Program Application to complete screening questions designed to help you answer eligibility questions.

**Q. Once my site has been certified what steps do I take to maintain the certification?**

**A.** You must stay in compliance with the reporting requirements of the Site and Building Database Management System and report number of jobs on current site on an annual basis for five years once development is complete. The reporting time may be extended at the discretion of the IEDC.

**Q. If I am not awarded certification, how do I reapply for a future round?**

**A.** You may re-submit for Shovel Ready certification by using your existing application for up to a one year period. In order to reapply, you must send a cover letter and any material changes to your original application to the IEDC.