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For Immediate Release:
April 14, 2014

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Office of Community and Rural Affairs Designates Hancock County Energy Park Site as “Shovel Ready”

GREENFIELD, IN—The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) today announced that Energy Park, in western Hancock County, is Shovel Ready under the Indiana Shovel Ready (ISR) Program.

The 166-acre property on the northwest corner of 300 North and 400 West near Mt. Comfort Rd. in Hancock County is ready to accommodate additional private investment joining existing University Loft and Tsuda plants. In recent years, the area has become a vibrant manufacturing hub for Hancock County.

“Through Shovel Ready, OCRA has helped to establish a portfolio of development-ready sites across the state,” said Bill Davis, Executive Director at the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. “We recognize the potential of Energy Park and are excited to begin marketing it to those who can develop it as an even greater asset for Hancock County.”

“Having Shovel Ready certified land in our community is a critical component to the overall strategy for Hancock County,” said Nolan “Skip” Kuker, CEO of the Hancock County Economic Development Council. “Hancock County and the Energy Park site continue our desire for development ready land.”

Indiana Shovel Ready is a multi-agency program, which certifies sites are ready for economic development. At its most basic, ISR defines boundaries of a site with a clear title and establishes support of executive-level local government along with other survey and environmental indicators. Energy Park joins nearly 90 other sites across the state certified as Shovel Ready. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) co-administers the program with OCRA. More information on ISR can be found at www.in.gov/ocra/2622.htm.

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). OCRA's mission is to promote community prosperity to strengthen Indiana's economy by providing capacity-building solutions to assure ready, marketable, and competitive communities for economic growth. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit www.in.gov/ocra.