

Development authority praised for AdvantageSite designation

By CY WOOD
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LANETT — The Chambers County Development Authority received praise Tuesday from state and development officials after being advised a 26-acre tract in the Chambers County Industrial Park at Exit 70 has been certified an AdvantageSite.

Having that certification tells developers and industries looking for locations that the site is shovel ready, according to Lee Lawson, economic development representative for PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, one of the sponsoring agencies of the AdvantageSite program.

He told the CCDA board of directors that the Chambers County site was one of just 18 in the



state with the AdvantageSite designation. That compares with approximately 450 industrial sites listed on the Alabama Development Office's web site.

"This is not awarded lightly," Lawson said. "It's not an easy process."

He praised the staff of the Chambers County Development Authority for their diligence in getting the site ready to qualify for the prestigious designation.

"It takes time, it takes money and it takes diligence to get the designation," he said. "Your staff has been phenomenal in getting to this point."

Being an AdvantageSite means "your site is prepared, it's shovel ready," he stressed. "It raises your site above the rest."

The AdvantageSite program is jointly sponsored by the Alabama Development Office, Alabama Gas Corporation, Alabama Power Company, EDPA, the North Alabama Industrial Development Association and PowerSouth Energy Cooperative.

The voluntary industrial site preparedness program was created in order to make the state more competitive for companies considering a location in Alabama.

The certified site is located South of HiLex in the Chambers County Industrial Park, off Exit 70 on I-85.



ADVANTAGESITE CERTIFICATION — A 26-acre tract in the Chambers County Industrial Park has been given AdvantageSite status, meaning it is one of 18 such sites in Alabama that are shovel ready for development, among some 450 sites currently being marketed in the state. Presenting the Chambers County Development Authority with its plaque indicating AdvantageSite status were Steve Sheek of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, left, Hollie Pegg of the Alabama Development Office, second from left, and Lee Lawson of PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, center. Accepting on behalf of the CCDA were Cary Baldwin, board president, second from right, and Valerie Gray, right, CCDA executive director.