

## MEDIA RELEASE

**From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority**

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### **Foreign-Trade Zones Board Approves Expansion & Reorganization of FTZ #176**

**Rockford, IL** – On January 30, 2009, the Greater Rockford Airport Authority – as grantee/administrator of FTZ #176 – received approval to expand and reorganize from the FTZ Board in Washington, D.C. This change eliminated undevelopable acreage owned by the RFD as well as several moribund sites; it also added acreage acquired by the GRAA since the original 1991 grant of authority. More important, it replaced this acreage with industrial building sites and prime industrial parks in Winnebago and DeKalb Counties. The net increase is just over 400 acres for a total approved acreage of almost 3620.

#### **What This Means**

Approval is the first of two required steps for an importer prior to utilizing FTZ benefits; the second step is called activation, which is akin to 'turning the lights on' in your plant or warehouse. When both steps have been completed, a qualifying company can reduce, delay or eliminate customs duties – or take advantage of other inventory, supply chain and weekly-entry savings offered under the program.

"As a result of this approval, FTZ #176 is 'new and improved' with the addition of 11 sites under the management of nine new partners," bubbled FTZ Administrator Marge Bevers. "The application for approval is a lengthy and costly process. The step from approval to activation is short and cost-effective. We are working hard to encourage activity at these sites now that they are 'on line'. When other eligible importers realize the potential benefits that will accrue to their neighbors, interest will escalate," she continued. Bevers said that with almost four-dozen active leads, prospects appear bright for the continued growth of the Zone in northern Illinois.

Executive Director Bob O'Brien reinforced the good news: "The best news about this expansion is the serious interest in activation at two of the incoming sites from area companies. We know this effort will pay off for job retention and creation during this difficult economy."

#### **The incoming partners are:**

- ✓ Abilities Center: Kishwaukee site and nearby Counselor Scale Building (owned by Hendricks Development Group)
- ✓ Alhark Corporation: former Mallquist Butter & Egg location on Samuelson
- ✓ Amphenol-Antel: 1300 Capital Drive
- ✓ City of Rockford: Logistics Park
- ✓ Greenlee: 3 locations on Research Parkway & Boeing Drive
- ✓ Hendricks Development Group: Essex Wire Building on N. Main
- ✓ HSA Real Estate: 4500 Kishwaukee industrial complex
- ✓ Target Corp: part of Park 88, DeKalb
- ✓ Venture One: Park 88 in DeKalb; Loves Park Corporate Center, Rock 39 in Cherry Valley

For additional information, contact Bob O'Brien at 815-969-4444.

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