



## **GENERAL**

### **Q. What is the Alabama AdvantageSite program?**

**A.** The Alabama AdvantageSite program is a site-readiness program designed to promote Alabama sites that have documentation of basic criteria and critical information.

### **Q. Why a site readiness program?**

**A.** There is a growing trend in the site location business - more detailed information requests and shorter deadlines. Companies seeking to locate a new facility are allowing less time for site selection, site development and project construction. To remain competitive, Alabama must have a ready inventory of industrial sites with key site documentation for accurate, timely project evaluation.

### **Q. Who is sponsoring the program?**

**A.** The Alabama AdvantageSite program is jointly sponsored by the Alabama Development Office, Alabama Gas Corporation, Alabama Power Company, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, North Alabama Industrial Development Association, and PowerSouth Energy Cooperative. In developing the program, experts from key industry sectors, such as engineering and construction have been consulted for technical guidance.

### **Q. Who will administer the program?**

**A.** EDPA will coordinate and manage AdvantageSite with support from the steering committee, who will participate in technical review teams and other committees.

### **Q. Is this program similar to site certification or shovel-ready programs developed in other states or regions across the county?**

**A.** Alabama's AdvantageSite program is best described as a site information confirmation and site evaluation program. Unlike many state and regional certification programs, this program does not limit qualifying sites to those where construction can begin immediately or within an established time-frame, nor does it seek to pre-permit sites for specific industrial uses. In addition, this program does not eliminate sites based on available workforce, location within the state or other information not related to the physical characteristics of a site. Although sites must meet strict minimum-level criteria for consideration, qualifying sites will be those with standard site documentation for accurate, timely project evaluation.

### **Q. Must a site be submitted for AdvantageSite designation to remain on the EDPA buildings and sites database?**

**A.** No. AdvantageSite will be an enhanced feature of the Alabama sites and buildings database. Participation in the program is voluntary, and not all sites will qualify. Alabama's database lists many excellent properties, and our team aggressively strives to keep current all of the information residing on the database.

**Q. What is the desired outcome of AdvantageSite?**

**A.** The purpose is to develop a statewide inventory of industrial sites that have standardized site documentation for accurate, timely project evaluation and to market those sites as such on the available properties database. At the simplest level, these will be sites for which we have obtained a standard series of quality data and evaluation.

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**Q. How does a site receive the AdvantageSite designation?**

**A.** Local economic development entities may submit eligible sites for AdvantageSite designation by following the pre-application and application process. Completed applications will be evaluated by the Review Team. Sites that meet all criteria will receive a site visit from members of the Team, who will then award the designation to sites that have passed both the paper and visual inspections.

**Q. Who may make application?**

**A.** The desired applicant is the recognized local economic development entity. In communities where there is no formal economic development program, other entities (described in the applicant registration and participation agreement) may make application. Applicants must register as a program participant and agree to the terms of participation in the program.

**Q. Is an applicant permitted to submit more than one site for designation?**

**A.** Yes. Eligible Applicants may submit more than one site for readiness designation. An AdvantageSite pre-application and application must be completed for each site.

**Q. What sites will be considered?**

**A.** The program is open to industrial sites that meet the stated minimum criteria. Sites zoned for, or planned for residential, retail, or commercial development are not eligible for participation in the program. Areas covered under minimum criteria include ownership/control, size, zoning, site access, environmental due diligence, utilities status, and site documentation. A complete checklist is available.

**Q. What costs are involved with certification of industrial sites?**

**A.** There are no application fees to submit a property for AdvantageSite designation. However, there could be costs incurred by the applicant/owner in order to meet the minimum level criteria. Any costs related to application preparation are the responsibility of the local applicant/owner.

**Q. Once a site has received designation what steps are taken to maintain the designation?**

**A.** Designation will be for a two-year period, provided that the site continues to meet the minimum level criteria and that the applicant stays in compliance with the reporting requirements of the program. At the close of the two-year period, the applicant must take affirmative steps toward renewal as described in the program guidelines to maintain the designation.