



NEWS RELEASE

West Tennessee Automotive Park Certified in TVA Megosite Program

ALAMO, Tenn. – TVA officials announced today that a more than 1,600-acre Crockett County industrial site has been certified as a megasite, a large industrial property suitable for major automotive manufacturing.

The industrial site, known as the West Tennessee Auto Park, is located in Fruitvale near Bells. It was certified by McCallum Sweeney Consulting of Greenville, S.C., an independent firm commissioned by TVA. The announcement was made at Crockett County High School in Alamo.

It is the second site in Tennessee and the fifth in the Tennessee Valley to be certified as a megasite. Sites in Columbus, Miss., near Tupelo, Miss., near Hopkinsville, Ky., and in Chattanooga were previously certified.

The megasite, located just north of Interstate 40, near Interstate 155, and near the intersection of U.S. Highways 412 and 79/Alternate 70, is about 60 miles northeast of Memphis and about 15 miles from Jackson. Memphis International Airport, McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport in Jackson and a CSX mainline rail are located nearby, and the site has good topography and utilities infrastructure. It also meets all minimum criteria for megasite certification, including size of at least 1,000 contiguous acres, land availability, transportation access and labor capacity.

“Having a certified, ready-for-development megasite in West Tennessee gives the community and the Tennessee Valley a huge advantage in recruiting new automotive manufacturing facilities and other industries,” said TVA Chairman Bill Baxter. “There is a large demand for certified industrial sites by the automotive industry, and the West Tennessee Auto Park megasite allows Crockett County and the state of Tennessee to be fierce competitors in this highly aggressive business.”

Working in partnership, TVA’s economic development staff, distributors of TVA power, and economic development partners will market the site to automotive manufacturers seeking to locate facilities in the Southeast.

“The megasite certification proves that our community is ready and has the attributes needed to become the future home of a major automotive facility,” said Frankie McCord, executive director of the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce, which led the community’s

participation in the project. "The teamwork shown by the community, property owners, area chambers, and local, state and regional players reflects positively on West Tennessee and its future economic opportunities."

TVA launched the megasite certification program in March 2004 in response to a growing need for large industrial properties appropriate for automotive manufacturing facilities. TVA has learned that several major manufacturers may locate additional automotive plants in the Southeast during the next decade.

Based on its expertise as a site selection consultant for the automotive industry, MSC was commissioned by TVA as an independent source to evaluate the submitted sites. All site applications were reviewed, and site visits were conducted by the consultant. Recommendations for property improvements and suitable industry-specific uses were given to each of the communities that submitted sites.

"Companies, especially in the automotive industry, are under tremendous market pressures to make site decisions and start up new facilities at a record-breaking pace," said MSC Senior Principal Mark Sweeney. "With the addition of the West Tennessee Auto Park, TVA has an inventory of five certified sites that are ready to meet the stringent demands of an automotive assembly plant."

In fiscal year 2004, TVA worked in partnership with various economic development organizations and partners to help attract or retain 50,388 jobs and leverage \$2.1 billion in capital investment. TVA also provided more than \$13.5 million in economic development loans.

More information about economic development in the Tennessee Valley is available at www.TVAed.com and www.TVAsites.com.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financed. TVA provides power to large industries and 158 power distributors that serve approximately 8.6 million consumers in seven southeastern states.

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What Others Are Saying About West Tennessee Auto Park Megasite Certification

“This designation is exciting news for West Tennessee, that we will be able to recruit important industries to help us maximize our resources here in Crockett County – specifically our high-quality and accessible land and our dedicated worker base. It will be a boost for our whole region, and I commend everyone who has helped make this certification a reality.”

- U.S. Congressman John Tanner

“I realize a lot of hard work went into making this announcement possible, and I commend Crockett County on taking on and meeting the challenges necessary to receive TVA megasite certification. This will be another important resource for the state and this region. We congratulate Crockett County and look forward to working with the county, TVA and other economic development partners to attract new industries that will provide needed employment opportunities here.”

- Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber

“The West Tennessee Auto Park megasite has truly been a regional effort to position our region for future job growth and investment. This certification program structured and sponsored by TVA, has served our communities well, and it will afford all of us an opportunity to create jobs and prosperity in the years to come.”

- Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Latture, II

“The megasite certification of the West Tennessee Auto Park brings hope to the people of Crockett County. With that hope is the reality that our community may attract good jobs and a future that will help keep our children and grandchildren working here.”

- Crockett County Mayor Larry Griffin

“The West Tennessee Auto Park in Crockett County is the first certified automotive industrial megasite in West Tennessee, the second in the state, and one of only five in the Tennessee Valley. The application and certification process was very comprehensive, and has helped position Crockett County as a promising site for future automobile manufacturing and assembly operations. TVA is to be commended for commissioning McCallum Sweeney Consulting to evaluate West Tennessee Auto Park and other potential megasites in the Valley, and Crockett County leadership is to be commended for their determination to get their site certified. It's been rewarding to be a part of the process, to partner with many other local, regional and state organizations and individuals in working towards a common vision. “

- Gibson Electric Membership Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Rodamaker