



### **Athens County Industrial Park Receives \$2.9M Site Development Grant to Attract New Business**

**Athens, Ohio: May 6, 2020** — JobsOhio, Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE) and the Athens County Port Authority today announced that site development at the Bill Theisen Industrial Park in Athens County will be supported with a \$2.9 million JobsOhio Grant.

The grant will support site preparation for building construction by business occupants. Work will include site grading, upgrades to gas, water and sewer lines, environmental and surface water mitigation, and geotechnical construction to address soil conditions. The Port Authority intends to develop two speculative buildings on the site to attract and house local expanding companies and new employers to the county.

“This assistance is the result of several years of collaboration with our partners in Southeast Ohio,” said J.P. Nauseef, JobsOhio president and CEO. “Site development at Bill Theisen Industrial Park will provide a destination in Athens County for job creators looking to invest quickly and with confidence.”

Funding to improve these sites was made available through the JobsOhio/OhioSE Site Initiative, a program that started in 2018 with a goal to assist distressed southern Ohio counties by creating competitive sites capable of winning new business investments. The sites in the program were selected with the assistance of a group of southern Ohio CEOs who advised JobsOhio and OhioSE.

“Our region needs ready sites and buildings to be competitive in economic development,” said OhioSE President Mike Jacoby. “Our team was very pleased to assist the Athens County Port Authority access these funds from JobsOhio. This grant should help the port foster additional job creation in Athens County. I applaud JobsOhio for recognizing the special challenges in our region and allocating funds to help us.”

“The Athens County Port Authority and Athens County Economic Development Council have been working to redevelop this brownfield property for more than 10 years,” said Sara Marrs-Maxfield, Executive Director of the Athens County EDC and Athens County Port Authority. “There have been many great partners in this effort including US EPA, Ohio DSA, and local authorities. OhioSE and JobsOhio have recognized our commitment to redeveloping this site for the advancement of our goals of quality jobs and economic progress through diversification of our regional economy. JobsOhio’s significant commitment to southeast Ohio is reflected in this huge investment that will attract the needed additional capital to bring this project over the finish line. We are so thankful and excited to continue our longstanding partnership with JobsOhio and OhioSE.”

The industrial park on Poston Station Road is owned by the Port Authority and is the former location of a Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric coal fired power plant. The power plant was closed and removed and the property sold to the Port Authority in 1993 for use in economic development. The industrial

park is currently occupied by Global Cooling, QuickLoadz, Le-Ax Water and the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center. With the planned site preparation and the completed due diligence studies the site will be totally ready for the development of buildings in 2021.

Several other sites in southern Ohio are wrapping up due diligence reviews through this initiative. These due diligence reviews include a title review, environmental assessment, wetlands delineations, threatened & endangered species study, cultural resources report, geotechnical report, utility assessment, grading plan, and engineer's development cost estimate. Other sites in the program are currently under review and additional awards may be coming in the future for the strongest sites.

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**JobsOhio** is a private nonprofit economic development corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention and expansion. The organization also works to seed talent production in its targeted industries and to attract talent to Ohio through [Find Your Ohio](#). JobsOhio works with six regional partners across Ohio: [Dayton Development Coalition](#), [Ohio Southeast](#), [One Columbus](#), REDI Cincinnati, Regional Growth Partnership and Team NEO. Learn more at [www.jobsohio.com](http://www.jobsohio.com). Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.

**Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE)** is the JobsOhio Network Partner for southern, eastern and southeastern Ohio, providing economic development work and resources in 25 rural counties; they are the newest and geographically the largest of the six regions across the state. OhioSE partners closely with regional development districts, local economic development offices, state agencies and other entities to expand, retain and attract businesses in the counties they serve. Learn more at [OhioSE.com](http://OhioSE.com).

**Athens County Port Authority/Athens County Economic Development Council:** The Athens County Port Authority is a quasi-public entity established by the Athens County Commissioners in 1995. Since that time, the Port Authority has held the power to own land, set fees and levy taxes – placing it in an excellent position to stimulate growth within the county. The Athens County Economic Development Council is the champion of business in Southeast Ohio. We are a 501c3 public-private partnership committed to increasing economic opportunity in Athens County by encouraging entrepreneurship, recruiting new businesses, and helping existing businesses grow and expand.

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