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**New York State Designates Sandstone Development Site in Orleans County
“Shovel Ready”**

125-acre site in Shelby is ready for development as a multi-tenant business and technology park

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that New York State has designated the Sandstone Development Site (formerly the Keppler Site) in the Town of Shelby, Orleans County, as “shovel ready,” ensuring the site’s readiness for development as a multi-tenant business and technology park. The 125-acre site has fulfilled the requirements for New York State Shovel Ready Certification and has been pre-qualified for development, meaning that businesses will be able to locate there without delay. Companies will still need to obtain permits to operate that will be based on their individual needs and circumstances, but they can be assured there are no wetlands, endangered species, historic artifacts or other concerns that might delay a project. Utilities, including electricity, gas, water, sewer and fiber, are also available to the site.

“The Orleans County EDA clearly recognizes the value of our Shovel Ready Certification for attracting future developments to Orleans County,” said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky. “By gaining this valuable certification for the Sandstone Development Site in Shelby, the potential to attract developers and business interest is increased substantially, while the time to complete any project is significantly reduced.”

“The Orleans EDA has been primed for quite some time, aggressively marketing to and attracting more multi-national manufacturing and commerce business to Orleans County,” said Orleans County IDA CEO/CFO James Whipple. With the confirmation of Sandstone’s shovel ready status, he adds, “I am confident the interest in our county will continue and we will successfully engage businesses best-suited to the assets and resources we have to offer. No one ever regrets doing business in Orleans County. We make sure of it.”

At the Shelby site, hurdles that may have hindered development have been eliminated, thanks to investments made by the Town of Shelby (\$60,000), the Orleans IDA

(\$25,000), Orleans County (\$25,000) and a \$40,000 grant from National Grid. The site is also eligible for New York Power Authority (NYPA) low-cost hydroelectric power allocation and Western New York power proceeds allocations, which businesses will have to apply for separately.

The parcel is located on Maple Ridge Road in the Town of Shelby, directly south of the existing Medina Business Park. For more information on the Sandstone Development Site, visit www.orleansdevelopment.org/projects or contact (585) 589-7060 ext. 104 or 105.

Shovel Ready Certification is administered by Empire State Development, the state's lead economic development organization. The program is an ongoing component of the Build Now-NY program. The state does not provide funding for Shovel Ready applications, but does coordinate the review of each application with all relevant state and federal agencies. In this case, as part of the process, the site was evaluated by representatives of ESD, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Office of Historic Preservation, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets and the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers. Each of these agencies has looked at the potential for development at this location and resolved any concerns in advance of a project.

For more information on New York State's Shovel Ready program, visit <http://www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/Data/BuildNow/index.htm>.

About Empire State Development

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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