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EDA Awarded \$50,000 Grant for Royal Phoenix Site

March 23, 2012, Front Royal, Virginia: The Economic Development Authority announced today that it was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The grant is to be used to conduct engineering studies on infrastructure deployment at the Royal Phoenix Redevelopment Site (formerly Avtex). Request for bids will be published in the local newspapers in April, and once that public notification and RFP process is completed, the EDA will select an engineering firm to

begin the design and recommendation for deployment water/sewer, electric, broadband, roadways, sidewalks, etc. for the site.

“This grant is precisely what we need to begin the preparation process for redevelopment of the site,” said Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority. “We are very happy to have received a grant from the State to begin the infrastructure design for the redevelopment project.”

The grant, entitled “Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund,” is issued by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – the two entities that control the use of funds and selection criteria for eligibility.

The purpose of the VBAF is to “consider[s] the extent to which a grant or loan will facilitate the use or reuse of existing infrastructure, the extent to which a grant or loan will meet the needs of a community that has limited ability to draw on other funding sources because of the small size or low income of the community, the potential for redevelopment of the site, the economic and environmental benefits to the surrounding community, and the extent of the perceived or real environmental contamination at the site.”

The award requires a one-to-one match by the applicant, and will be disbursed in two installments over the next twelve months.

“We are so pleased to receive this support from the State in the initial phase of the Royal Phoenix Redevelopment Project,” said Patty Wines, Chairwoman of the EDA.

“We are anxious to return a clean site to our community and to begin the redevelopment, and the VBAF award is making our first steps so much easier.”

The Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund was enacted in 2002 by the Virginia General Assembly to help redevelopment efforts across the Commonwealth. In 2011, the Fund was finally capitalized, and VEDP and DEQ began the process of inviting brownfields communities to apply for grants.

For more information, contact Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director, Economic Development Authority, 540.635.2182.

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