



George County Board of Supervisors
Ken Flanagan, Communications Director
Office: 601-247-2104

GC Board approves location for proposed MS Power Substation

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The location for a proposed electrical substation to serve the George County Industrial Park was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors during the Aug. 4 meeting. The Board entered into an “Option Agreement” with Mississippi Power to purchase approximately 6.5 acres of County property on Evanston Road inside of the industrial park.

Under the terms of the option agreement, Mississippi Power has the exclusive rights to purchase the property for six months, will conduct an official survey, and agreed to a final purchase price.

“We have begun the biggest utilities upgrades in the last 30 years for the George County Industrial Park. Choosing and approving the location for a new substation is a vital step for these upgrade,” explains Supervisor Kelly Wright, Board President.

The option process began in February with the County’s Community Development Office and MS Power’s real-estate team working through four different plot sizes. The location of the substation directly impacts waterlines, wastewater lines, and future right-of-way off Evanston Road. One of the main design factors is the addition of Green Circle Bio Energy as a tenant in the Industrial Park.

“The proposed substation is being designed to meet more than Green Circle's electric power needs, which are huge. It is also being designed to address the Industrial Park power needs for years to come. We have a good working partnership with Mississippi Powers' Economic Development team and I appreciate their confidence in our County,” Wright said.

Green Circle Bio Energy, Inc. purchased 120 acres in July 2013 to build a wood pellet facility in George County’s Industrial Park, investing an estimated \$115 million. This state-of-the-art plant will produce 500,000 metric tons of pellets a year and is expected to create 126 new full-time jobs. The George County plant is expected to break ground in 2015. Green Circle’s CEO Morten Neraas is pleased with the park’s progress.

“Upgrading electrical service is vital for Green Circle’s George County Plant and the future of the Industrial Park. I want to commend the Board of Supervisors’ collective leadership for moving forward on this key infrastructure step. Choosing a location for a new substation does not occur in a vacuum. I appreciate all of the planning and coordination between the County and MS Power that lead to choosing this location,” Neraas said.



The George County Industrial Park is approximately 1,200 acres and currently home to American Tank and Vessel, Vulcan Materials, Tri- State Pole and Piling, and MS Railroads Trans-Load Facility. For more detailed information about the Industrial Park visit www.georgecountymys.com/industrial_park .