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Seneca County IDA Approves License for Western Ag Enterprises Facility at Seneca Army Depot

— *Arizona-based containment liner manufacturer expects to create 20 jobs* —

WATERLOO, N.Y., August 4, 2011 — The Seneca County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) today approved a license and site access agreement for Arizona-based Western Ag Enterprises Inc. to utilize six 10,000-square-foot warehouses at the former Seneca Army Depot. Western Ag converts industrial fabrics for use as environmental protection in agricultural, industrial, mining, transportation and recreational industries. This operation will be the first East Coast facility for Western Ag, and will allow the company to better serve its customers in the eastern United States.

Western Ag explored other locations in the Northeast and in New York State, as well as other sections of the Depot itself, but selected the western Depot site because its existing large warehouse structures meet the company's width, length and flat-floor requirements, allowing operations to get up and running quickly. In addition, the Depot offers the potential for future expansion as the company builds its customer base in the eastern U.S., as well as providing an opportunity to serve its foreign customers more efficiently.

Dick Carter, president of Western Ag, said the company expects to create 20 jobs almost immediately.

“We are excited to get up and running at the Seneca County site, and look forward to more developments in the months and years ahead,” he said.

IDA board members will consider future financial assistance to Western Ag according to a set of performance-based factors, including job creation, said IDA Executive Director Bob Aronson.

IDA Chairman Tom Kime said Western Ag comes to Seneca County as a result of the IDA’s marketing and outreach initiatives, including a new website, www.senecacountyIDA.org; a new microsite promoting development at the former Seneca Army Depot, www.senecaarmydepotreuse.com, which just went live two weeks ago; and a pro-active business development outreach effort.

The microsite will help raise awareness of, and interest in, the former 10,600-acre Depot, which is New York State’s largest development site. The easy-to-navigate microsite touts the Depot’s infrastructure, assets and specifications. It also offers recommendations for ideal uses for each parcel, including the airfield, the igloos, and available sites on the east- and west-ends of the property. Historical snapshots highlighting previous uses are also featured on the microsite.

“The former Seneca Army Depot offers unique opportunities for economic development in our region of New York State,” Kime said. “Western Ag’s re-use of warehouses as a light manufacturing facility is a prime example of those opportunities.”

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