



# PALMETTO

## POWER

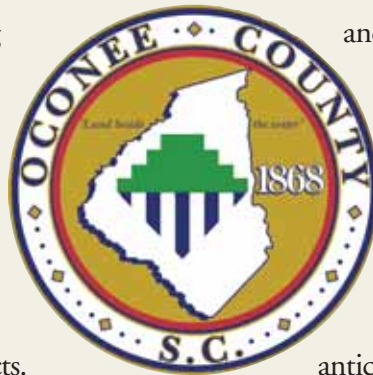
PROMOTING  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA  
MAY/JUNE 2008

### Two Announcements for Oconee County

Oconee County enjoyed a banner April when two corporations announced projects that are expected to add over 180 new jobs. ITECH SOUTH, a subsidiary of Injection Technology Corporation, will locate a plastics injection molding operation in an existing Oconee County building. Swedish company Sandvik/Valenite will expand carbide cutting tool manufacturing at its Westminster, SC facility. Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will serve both projects.

“The investment we are seeing in Oconee County today can be directly attributed to the commitment our county, commission and service providers made to preparing Oconee County to receive industry,” said Jim Alexander,

director of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission. “Oconee County has the infrastructure, incentives and workforce to make business successful thanks to their hard work. Companies are recognizing this and responding.”



The former Pine River Plastics plant on South Carolina State Highway 11 will be home to ITECH SOUTH. The company is making a \$5 million investment in the expansion and anticipates operations starting in May.

Sandvik/Valenite will invest \$47.5 million to expand its Oconee County facility. With 342 area employees, Sandvik/Valenite anticipates its workforce increasing over 25% when the expansion is complete.

—continued on back page

# Colleton County Industrial Park Wins Inaugural Award

The Colleton County Commerce Center won the inaugural Most Improved Rural Industrial Park award at the 2008 South Carolina Rural Summit held by the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Through a committed planning and implementation process, Colleton County converted an unprepared property into a South Carolina certified site.

“The Colleton County Commerce Center is one hour from two ports – a great asset for any facility that locates there. Initially, from an infrastructure and land preparation standpoint, it was not ready for business,” said Peter Arnoti, economic development director for the Colleton County Economic Alliance. “Over the last 2 years, the Alliance, Colleton County and our partners came together and systematically tackled the process of making the Commerce Center a Level IV certified site under the site certification criteria set forth by the South Carolina Department of Commerce.”

Maceo Nance, director of the community & rural planning and development division at the South Carolina Department of Commerce, presented the award to Arnoti on the final day of the South Carolina Rural Summit in March. “As I stated in the award presentation, the Colleton County Commerce Center is a showcase example of what an industrial park can and should be,” said Nance. “The fact that the county government and economic development leadership rallied together as a team and initiated, financed and supervised the work on the Center themselves is also to be praised. It is for these reasons that we recognized their efforts for a job well done.”

Electric service to Colleton County Commerce Center is provided by Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc. “We congratulate the Colleton County Economic Alliance and their partners on this award. We will do all we can to help them in the recruitment of world class industrial and distribution clients to the Center,” said Larry Hinz, CEO of Coastal Electric Cooperative.

Manufacturing/distribution sites from 5 to 134 net usable acres are available at the Colleton County Commerce Center. Interested parties can telephone Peter Arnoti at the Colleton County Economic Alliance at (843) 549-9597. Parties may also telephone Fred Gassaway at the South Carolina Power Team at (803) 254-9211.



Peter Arnoti (l) of Colleton County Economic Alliance receives the inaugural Most Improved Rural Industrial Park award from Maceo Nance (r) of the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

# South Carolina Power Team Receives Honor



(l-r) Lonnie Carter and Barry Wynn of Santee Cooper and Dial Dubose and Ralph Thomas of the South Carolina Power Team displaying the awards.

Citing its work to foster integrated economic development efforts, the Upstate Alliance honored the South Carolina Power Team with its *2007 Upstate Alliance Economic Impact Award* at the Alliance's 2008 annual meeting. Santee Cooper received the same award.

"The South Carolina Power Team continues to extend its thanks to all representatives of the Upstate Alliance for this recognition," said Ralph Thomas, president of the South Carolina Power Team. "We will continue to assist them, and all the economic development groups in the state, with everything at our disposal to attract and grow industry in South Carolina."

Hal Johnson, president/CEO of the Upstate Alliance, praised the Power Team and Santee Cooper. "The comprehensive assistance of the South Carolina Power Team and Santee Cooper makes all of South Carolina more competitive in economic development. We presented the awards to them in recognition of that fact and in appreciation for the particular impact their work makes in helping our organization reach its goals and objectives."

# Baggett Named Director of Dorchester County Economic Development

Jon Baggett is the new director of Dorchester County Economic Development. He began his duties on April 14, 2008.

Baggett's work experiences to date include college admissions, membership development work at a large chamber of commerce and small business advocacy and ombudsman efforts at the South Carolina Department of Commerce (SCDOC). Most recently, Jon was employed at the SCDOC as a community development manager. In this role, Jon worked with economic development groups, non-profits, local governments and the state and national government to foster economic and community development in a 10 county region of South Carolina.

A native of Walterboro, Baggett holds a bachelor's degree from Presbyterian College and a master's degree from the University of South Carolina in public administration.



Jon Baggett

## Website Provides Workforce Stats Fast

### Finding South Carolina workforce statistics and information just got faster

with the addition of [scworkforceinfo.com](http://scworkforceinfo.com). Created by the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the site is designed to put comprehensive workforce data into a user's hand at the click of a mouse. "Workforce quality is a key element in any site location process. We wanted to make it easier for site consultants and others in economic development to access the numbers that confirm our second to none workforce in South Carolina," said South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor. In addition to workforce data, the site

has a wealth of additional features including tools that help employers and skilled workers match up. Interested parties can also access the site at [workforcesouthcarolina.com](http://workforcesouthcarolina.com) (click "Labor Market Information").

# South Carolina Industrial Park

COLLETON COUNTY COMMERCE CENTER | WALTERBORO, SC



## On I-95 | Exit #62 | 23 miles to I-26

- 260-acre Certified\* industrial commercial park on I-95
- 170 acres light manufacturing/distribution. 29 acres commercial
- Sites from 5 – 134 net usable acres
- 250,000 sq. ft. prepared building pad
- 23 miles to I-26
- 44 miles to Charleston International Airport
- Midway between Ports of Charleston & Savannah
- 5 miles to Lowcountry Regional Airport w/runways to 6,000 ft.
- Foreign Trade Zone
- Water – 12-in. line. 500,000 gal. elevated tank. City of Walterboro
- Sewer – 12/10-in. lines. City of Walterboro
- Natural gas – 8-in. line. SCE&G
- Restrictive Covenants



*\*Completed boundary/topo surveys; soil borings; seismic testing; environmental assessments (soil, endangered species, cultural resources); wetlands delineation/mitigation; interior roads, water & sewer lines designed/permitted.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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803.254.9211  
[Fgassaway@SCpowerteam.com](mailto:Fgassaway@SCpowerteam.com)

–or–

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## Two Announcements for Oconee County —*continued from page 1*

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Employees at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, the electric utility of Sandvik/Valenite and ITECH SOUTH, joined the county in the

excitement over the industrial growth. "When an industry expands in our territory, it is a sign to us that they have confidence in our electric service," said Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative president and CEO Charles Dalton. "We congratulate ITECH SOUTH and Sandvik/Valenite on these

recent announcements and pledge to them reliable electric service that powers their business to even more success."

*"We congratulate ITECH SOUTH and Sandvik/Valenite on these recent announcements and pledge to them reliable electric service that powers their business to even more success."*

CHARLES DALTON

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

SOUTH CAROLINA POWER TEAM  
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