



Orangeburg County  
Development Commission  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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***Aiken Electric Cooperative Invests in Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park***

**Orangeburg County, SC** - The Orangeburg County Development Commission is pleased to announce additional funding for the ***Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park***. Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. has allocated \$100,000 in RDA (Rural Development Act) funds to be used for infrastructure associated with the development of the park. RDA funds are monies that the Cooperative would otherwise pay to the state of South Carolina in the form of gross tax receipts; however, the RDA Act of 1996 allows the Cooperative to, instead, invest these funds locally.

“Aiken Electric Cooperative is proud to support the Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park project. Our partnership with the Orangeburg County Development Commission should be instrumental in improving the economic growth for not only the western region of Orangeburg County but for the entire region,” said Gary L. Stooksbury, the cooperative’s Chief Executive Officer. “The area west of the Edisto River has tremendous potential and this park is at the heart of it all. We see a very positive future.”

Senator Brad Hutto said, “The cooperative’s contribution of RDA funds clearly reflects their commitment to economic development and symbolizes our commitment to providing great job opportunities for the county.”

Johnnie Wright, Sr., County Council Chairman, added, “This economic incentive reflects County Council’s vision to make development in Western Orangeburg County a reality, and Aiken Electric is playing a major role in helping Orangeburg County fulfill that vision.”

“The funding from Aiken Electric Cooperative is very timely. The additional funding will enhance the new Capital Sales Tax funds scheduled for Western Orangeburg County and greatly assist our efforts to develop an industrial park for the western portion of the county. This is a wonderful Christmas gift and we appreciate their efforts to be part of Team Orangeburg County” said Harold Young, County Administrator.

“Aiken Electric’s investment represents a significant commitment to the people of Western Orangeburg County. With approximately 100 pad-ready acres, the Orangeburg County Industrial Park is beginning to take shape, and this investment will significantly improve the ability to recruit quality companies to the area,” said Gregg Robinson, Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission. “Product infrastructure is a critical factor in new business development and recruitment. Aiken Electric is a valued partner in the economic growth of Orangeburg County and South Carolina.”

Aiken Electric Cooperative has been a strong supporter of industrial growth in its nine-county service territory, contributing over \$6.1 million in RDA funds to assist in the construction of area projects.

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**ABOUT WESTERN ORANEBURG COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK**

The Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park is strategically located on US 321 and SC 389, adjacent to the CSX Main Line Rail. This area is categorized as both a distribution and a transportation corridor with proximity to two major interstates in I-20 to the west and I-26 to the east. This park offers excellent opportunities for both Savannah and the Port of Charleston

**“IT’S A GREAT DAY IN ORANEBURG COUNTY!”**

For more information, you may contact:

C. Gregory (Gregg) Robinson, Executive Director  
Orangeburg County Development Commission  
125 Regional Parkway, Suite 100  
Orangeburg, SC 29118  
Phone: 803.536.3333  
Fax: 803.534.1165  
Email: [grobinson@ocdc.com](mailto:grobinson@ocdc.com)

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