



MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Press Release

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Decatur Leads the State in Number of VPP Star Companies

Decatur, AL – Nine of the 37 companies in Alabama who have received the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) *Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star* designation are located in Decatur, more than any other city in Alabama.

OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs partner with management, employees, and employee representatives at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive, successful safety and health management system. VPP sites are dedicated to effective employee protection beyond the standard OSHA requirements. For example, companies in the Star Program have achieved injury and illness rates at or below the national average of their respective industries. These sites are considered self-sufficient in their ability to control workplace hazards; therefore, OSHA removes participants from programmed inspection lists and does not issue citations for customary violations that are promptly corrected. Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

The VPP Star companies in Decatur include: **3M Decatur Film Operation; 3M Decatur Materials Operation; BE&K Industrial Services at BP America, Inc.; BP America, Inc. – Decatur Works; Calpine Corporation; General Electric; International Paper; Solutia; and Toray Fluorofibers (America), Inc.**

"Having nine companies receive the VPP Star designation is testament to the safety culture here in Morgan County," stated Mary Ila Ward, Vice President of Morgan County Economic Development Association. "It shows Morgan County's industries value the health of their employees and are committed to perfecting their companies' safety practices."

For more information on becoming a VPP member, contact OSHA's Office of Partnerships and Recognition at (202) 693-2213 or visit www.vpppa.org.

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