Northwest Tennessee offers key distribution advantages while reducing road miles and cost of operations in addition to being designated as a Foreign Trade Zone.

Accessibility
The Port of Cates Landing, a twenty million dollar port project and designated Foreign Trade Zone (#283), was completed in the summer of 2013. Located 4 miles north of Tiptonville, Tennessee, the port is accessible to barge traffic of any size, year round, at any river stage with 9,000 linear feet of slack water access to the barge berthing area.

Engineered to accommodate a 14ft barge draft capability, barges will be able to load to maximum capacity. This is a public port, fully lighted, with industrial voltage supplied to the site with room to grow. Surrounding the port are 4,000 acres of developable area, with 345 acres adjacent to the port as “Select Tennessee” certified. The site also has a 37,500 square foot warehouse that is available for use. Designated as an attainment area, there are no air pollution reporting or monitoring requirements. The Port of Cates Landing is a greenfield site, clean and ready to partner with the best suited terminal operators.

In the Spring of 2014, a “Super Two Lane” highway from Tiptonville will be completed and provide a modern, high-capacity roadway to the port. In addition to the soon to be completed highway a 5.5 mile rail spur is projected to be completed within 18 months. This will be yet be another key selling point for future businesses, connecting the port with the TennKen rail line and the Class 1 CN rail network.
Situated in a prime position, the Port of Cates Landing has several key advantages that make it an attractive prospect when considering new routes for a logistics chain. It is constructed on the only developable site on the Mississippi River above the 100 year flood plain between Memphis and Cairo, Illinois. As a part of an integrated transport system the port is, at the center of the Inland Waterway Transport Network, in close proximity to major interstates, only 90 miles by truck or rail to the world’s largest freight airport and rail center in Memphis, TN and finally the port is located in the Tennessee Valley Authority service area.

Designated as a Foreign Trade Zone, the Port and multiple subzones in Northwest Tennessee will be able to receive raw materials for value adding by industry within the zone and be eligible to delay tariffs. Subzones within Northwest Tennessee will be accessible by rail and road to the port. Exporting goods for overseas trade will only need to navigate one lock, at the Panama Canal, before accessing the Asian market as there are no locks between the Port of Cates and the Port of New Orleans.

For over 15 years the dedicated volunteers of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority have proven how strong the community support is for this project. With the port completed and rail spur completion on the horizon they are now ready to see Northwest Tennessee grow.

For questions or information regarding the port or Foreign Trade Zone please contact the Interim Port Director, Tom Cooley at (731) 253-3338. For information on relocation to Northwest Tennessee contact Blake Swaggart, Northwest Tennessee Regional Director for the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development at (731) 437-9443.