

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# State and Tribal Response Program Highlights



*EPA Funding Provided to States and Tribes to Address Contaminated Land in their Communities*

## REGION 1

**PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE** – The Passamaquoddy Tribe used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct assessment activities on two properties, the Passamaquoddy Public Works Garage and the Penknife Lake property. Recently, the tribe conducted Phase I and Phase II ESAs at the Passamaquoddy Public Works Garage. This property was historically used as an auto-repair shop and informal landfill for bulky waste. The property is located immediately upslope of traditional shell-fishing grounds and is currently used to store and maintain public works vehicles and the tribe's winter road-salt pile. The results of the Phase II indicated that concentrations of semi-volatile organic compounds are present in adjacent freshwater sediments. The investigation also identified high salinity concentrations in surface and ground water. As a result of the investigation, the tribe will consider further evaluation of the adjacent shell-fishing grounds and determine the feasibility of constructing a fixed structure over the salt pile. Additionally, the Passamaquoddy Tribe conducted a Phase I at a potentially impacted property on Penknife Lake. Land at the Penknife Lake property will be dedicated to the development and enrichment of tribal youth through traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and camping.

## REGION 2

**PUERTO RICO** – The Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to establish a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). The EQB continues to make progress toward the VCP by focusing on the identification, redevelopment, revitalization, and cleanup of brownfields in Puerto Rico. One of the initial tasks performed under the cooperative agreement was the development of a brownfields inventory. To streamline the efforts needed to complete the inventory, EQB reached out to the 15 municipalities in Puerto Rico that currently have EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Cooperative Agreements to request copies of their completed brownfields inventories. The EQB used these examples to develop an electronic state-wide brownfields inventory to provide valuable site information to the EQB and other government entities.

## REGION 3

**DELAWARE** – Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County redeveloped the Mill Stone property into 21 affordable housing units for the community. The property's historical uses include a cotton mill, a textile manufacturing facility, a tobacco company, a phonograph company, a dry cleaner/laundry service, an auto body shop, and most recently, an elementary school with modular buildings (the site's paving ensured that the property posed no risk to students). The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the environmental assessment and cleanup of the property. Assessment results revealed that surface soils were impacted by chlorinated solvents and by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and detected tetrachloroethane (PCE) above DNREC standards in the groundwater. Several tons of PAH-contaminated soils were excavated and a vapor barrier system was installed under the building slabs to prevent the migration of soil gas into the residences. Cleanup activities also included the installation of a cap and cover system made up of two feet of DNREC-approved clean fill. Construction is now complete and the dedication of the new neighborhood took place on September 6, 2013.

## REGION 4

**TENNESSEE** – A 13.3 mile stretch of the Greater Memphis Greenline in Shelby County was made possible by an EPA Section 104(k) Brownfields Assessment grant and Section 128(a) Response Program funding. The hazardous substance Assessment grant, awarded in 2008, was used to assess a stretch of 100-foot wide abandoned railroad corridor running from Cordova to Memphis. The area around this corridor became a dumping ground for household and industrial debris over the last several decades. The Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation then used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of cleanup activities. The corridor was redeveloped as a rails-to-trails greenspace for residents to use for walking, bicycling and other recreational activities.



Greater Memphis Rails-to-Trails Greenline.

## REGION 6

**CHEROKEE NATION / INTER-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (ITEC)** – ITEC uses Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program funding to assist these tribes in providing quality environmental site assessments, and in some cases (depending on funding availability), assistance with cleanup of contaminated properties. ITEC projects include the assessment and cleanup of the Territorial Prison, Supreme Court building, Cherokee Capitol Building, Cort Mall, the Dotson Roberts lumberyard, Saline Courthouse, the Markoma Property, and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's Recycling Center and Petroleum Underground Storage Tank (UST) removal. ITEC maintains several licenses to assure the proper implementation of assessment and cleanup activities, including a professional lead-based paint risk assessor, a lead-based paint inspector, an asbestos inspector, UST inspection and remediation staff, a mold inspector, and radon and meth testing professionals. This in-house expertise allows projects to proceed, creating new jobs and promoting economic renewal. Since 2005, ITEC provides technical assistance to ITEC Member Tribes with eligible brownfields. ITEC staff continues to take full advantage of outreach opportunities to increase brownfields awareness and to promote ITEC technical assistance to the tribes.



Construction Activities at the New Fairfield Inn and Suites Property.

## REGION 5

**MINNESOTA** – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide technical oversight of the remedial investigation and cleanup of the Van Hoven/ Armour Rendering Site in South St. Paul. This property and the surrounding area were used for stockyards, railroads, and meat-processing facilities since the late 1800s. Assessment activities revealed that the soil was contaminated with petroleum, arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and contained debris consisting of bricks, glass, steel, slag, sawdust, and concrete. Approximately 20,600 tons of contaminated soil and debris were excavated and disposed in a permitted landfill. A stormwater retention pond was also installed on the eastern portion of the property to accommodate future redevelopment, and any new buildings will require a methane mitigation system if soil gas sampling shows that there are still elevated methane gas levels in the subsurface. The property is ready for industrial redevelopment and once occupied, will provide a new tax base and new jobs after it has been redeveloped.

## REGION 7

**KANSAS** – The Kansas Brownfields Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct assessment activities on a 2.7-acre area in the City of Leavenworth. The assessment was necessary to evaluate 16 different properties proposed for redevelopment as a Marriot Brand Hotel and Convention Center. The assessments did not identify any recognized environmental

contamination, clearing the way for redevelopment. Following assessments, the city began demolition activities to remove several dilapidated homes from the redevelopment area, and completed site grading. Leavenworth Hotel Partners purchased the property from the city at the end of 2012. Construction of the new Fairfield Inn and Suites commenced in May 2013 and is ongoing, with an anticipated completion date in the Spring of 2014. A total of approximately \$6.3 million in redevelopment funding has been leveraged for property development and hotel construction. In addition, the 91-room hotel will create 25 to 27 new jobs, contributing to the employment and economic needs of the Leavenworth community.

## REGION 8

**FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX** – The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Response Program (TRP) cleaned up four properties. The properties were assessed using EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program funding and the TRP used Section 128(a) Response Program funds to conduct cleanup activities with the assistance of a qualified environmental professional. The tribe worked closely with the South Dakota Historic Preservation Office to address National Historic Preservation Act 106 requirements because the properties had structures over 50 years old. One of the structures had asbestos containing vermiculite that had been used for insulation; collapsed ceiling boards had released the vermiculite throughout the building, creating a hazardous environment for people entering the property. In response, deteriorating asbestos roof shingles and other asbestos-containing materials were removed and properly disposed of. The properties are once again suitable for redevelopment—including residential reuse.



*Asbestos Cleanup Activities on the Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation.*

## REGION 9

**YUROK TRIBE** – For the past six years, the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP) has built a Tribal Brownfields Program within the Yurok Tribe with Section 128(a) Response Program funding. To date, YTEP has completed ten Phase I assessments and three Phase II assessments. YTEP staff has also increased its capacity in data analysis and GIS training. YTEP now maintains the site name, location, GPS coordinates, description of properties, photographs, changes to the site and other relevant data such as positions of illegal dumping, underground storage tanks, air quality and water quality concerns in a YTEP GIS database that covers the tribe's Brownfields inventory. The inventory allows properties to be evaluated in a systematic fashion to determine which properties may pose a high risk to human health and the environment, and prioritize sites for cleanup and redevelopment based on the planning needs of the Tribe. This has allowed the YTEP to share and incorporate its Brownfields GIS files with Yurok Integrated Land Management and Planning Departments. It has also aided the dissemination of maps and information on potential brownfields during public Tribal events such as the Yurok Tribe Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Klamath River Clean Up, the Annual Salmon Festival, and local Tribal Council District meetings.

## REGION 10

**ALASKA** – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee, received an urgent request to clarify environmental concerns at a property that was part of a new energy-efficient pilot housing project. The Cold Climate Housing and Research Center (CCHRC), located in Fairbanks, was in need of answers to determine if the former community fuel depot located close to the selected housing project property created any cause for concern. While the project property itself was not contaminated, there was a perception that the adjacent contamination could impact this project. The resulting property assessment report and letter from DEC were submitted to CCHRC and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), clearing up uncertainties about contamination migrating from the fuel depot. With unwarranted fears of contamination removed, this vital community project was able to move forward with assistance from the CCHRC, the Native Village of Buckland, the City of Buckland, the University of Alaska Fairbanks-Chukchi Campus, the Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority, and HUD funding.