

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

RHODE ISLAND – A 20-acre former industrial area was redeveloped into the Woonsocket Middle School Campus, the largest middle school campus in New England. With the support of EPA and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the City of Woonsocket successfully implemented a proactive public outreach strategy to address the school siting and environmental justice concerns in a forthright and transparent manner. RIDEM used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to assist with the characterization of the property. The EPA, RI Economic Development Corporation and RIDEM brownfield programs provided almost \$2 million in brownfields grant funding for the assessment and cleanup of the property, as well as oversight and feedback. Results of the environmental assessment activities revealed that substantial contamination was present throughout the property. Cleanup costs to ensure that the school was safe totaled approximately \$6 million. The project schedule was met while staying under budget and the campus opened for occupancy in January 2010.



Opening Day ceremonies at the Woonsocket Middle School Campus.

REGION 2

VIRGIN ISLANDS – The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to establish a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). On July 20, 2010, USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) issued a notice of intent to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the Brownfield Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2008 for the establishment of a VCP. Hearings on the proposed VCP Rules and Regulations were held in August 2010 on all three islands (St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas). The VCP Rules and Regulations are for the purpose of establishing cleanup standards that are protective of human health and the environment for voluntary cleanup activities

conducted under the Virgin Islands VCP. The Rules and Regulations will also provide procedures pertaining to the eligibility, enrollment, reporting, public notice, and termination criteria for the program.

REGION 3

VIRGINIA – The City of Lynchburg is continuing its work at the former Allen Morrison facility. The property has a long history of contamination and was abandoned in 1998. The city enrolled the property in the Virginia Brownfields and Voluntary Remediation Program and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct assessment activities. Demolition and deconstruction activities including asbestos abatement are now being conducted at the property. The city plans to transform the property into a recreational facility and will provide opportunities for public input into the development of the master revitalization plan. The city is filming the project work and community meetings for a documentary on the project. The documentary, titled Brownfields to Green Fields: The Allen Morrison Project, is available on the city's website at: www.lynchburgva.gov.

REGION 4

ALABAMA – Located one block west of downtown Anniston, the 22-acre Chalkline, Inc. mill began operation as the Anniston Manufacturing Company in 1888 and closed in 1994. After the facility closed, the property was sold and the buildings were deconstructed, creating a significant scar of debris and rubble on the landscape. The city bought the property and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) used Section 128(a) Response Program funds to conduct assessment activities at the property. The city was then awarded an EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant and an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant. With remedial activities slated to be complete in September 2010, construction



Artist rendition of the redevelopment area.

is planned for a new Department of Human Resources building. In addition, a section of Snow Creek near the south end of property that has been channeled for over 100 years will be restored to a free flowing stream. The 33-mile Chief Ladiga Trail, built on abandoned railway rights-of-way, will be extended six miles from the Town of Weaver to the former mill property. And, a new federal courthouse is slated for construction at the former auto parts repair property adjacent to the Chalkline property. Local officials believe that these brownfields projects will spur other public and private revitalization efforts in the downtown Anniston area.

REGION 5

WISCONSIN – For over 100 years, ships traveling Lake Michigan were guided into Milwaukee by the North Point Lighthouse. However, over the decades, lead paint chips contaminated the soil around the now-retired structure. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to reach out to communities and encourage local governments to make use of brownfields redevelopment tools. To make the retired lighthouse available to tourists, the U.S. Coast Guard partnered with Wisconsin DNR staff to voluntarily clean up the property, so it can be sold to a nonprofit organization and opened as a museum.

REGION 6

EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL – The Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council (ENIPC) is the newest recipient of Section 128(a) Response Program funding in Region 6. ENIPC is establishing a Brownfields Tribal Response Program that will assist 22 Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico and West Texas promote the enhancement of environmental resources and environmental health, and protect tribal lands from environmental hazards. The ENIPC convenes regularly with the Pueblos' and Tribes' environmental project directors and staff to improve and maintain communication, network, and identify key environmental issues of concern. This group, known as the Intertribal Resource Advisory Committee (IRAC), has identified brownfields as a priority issue in relation to the health of its people and lands, as well as the importance of understanding the direct correlation between the need to clean up contaminated properties, protect environmental health, and increase economic development capabilities.

REGION 7

SAC & FOX NATION OF MISSOURI – On June 7, 2010, the Sac and Fox Nation Brownfields and Tribal Response Program (TRP) coordinator responded to a reported fuel leak at the Sac and Fox Truck Stop. The coordinator visited the scene to determine the extent of the spill and alerted the appropriate federal, state and local responders. The spill was the result of damage to a fuel line during construction activities. The coordinator and the Kickapoo Nation Fire Department remained onsite while the damaged line was repaired and the spill was properly cleaned up by the tribe. Incidents such as these are being used to develop the framework for a TRP response plan to assist Tribal Officials in making decisions and taking appropriate steps to ensure the health and safety of the community when a spill or contaminated property is discovered. This response plan is being developed using Section 128(a) Response Program funding.

REGION 8

UTAH – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality/Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee soil cleanup activities at an 18-acre property in preparation for redevelopment by Target Corporation. Located just south of Salt Lake City's Gateway redevelopment area, the former commercial property was contaminated by chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, and a small amount of PCBs. After the contamination was removed and properly disposed of, development moved forward during Spring/Summer 2010 and Target plans to open doors on the 136,000-square foot store in October 2010. Based on similar store data, it is estimated that the new Target store will create 175-200 jobs; additional jobs will be created through the completion of other retail and business spaces on the property.



New Target store located just south of Salt Lake City's Gateway redevelopment area.

REGION 9

ARIZONA – Due to unprecedented growth, the City of Show Low developed a plan to expand city facilities and infrastructure. Included in the plan was the construction of a new library. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments (ESA) at the new library location. The results of the Phase II ESA revealed petroleum-related contamination on the property. After the removal of contaminated soil, construction began near the end of 2009 and the new library opened in August 2010. The 20,000-square foot library offers a 50% increase in capacity with a second phase designed to accommodate future expansion. Its form reflects the tradition of lodge construction in the White Mountains with an environmentally conscious approach. A 150-foot clerestory window brings daylight deep into the main hall while other sustainable features include the use of low-VOC and recycled-content finishes, high-efficiency plumbing and mechanical equipment, and regional materials, such as Arizona stone. In addition, the library's former location will be transformed into a new City Hall building.



The new City of Show Low public library.

REGION 10

KUSKOKWIM RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL – On her visit to Alaska in July 2010, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson spent time with Joey Billy, the Brownfields Coordinator for the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council (KRWC) Tribal Response Program (TRP). KWRC is one of the 14 current TRPs in Alaska. Although KWRC is a new Section 128(a) Response Program grantee, it is in the planning stages for both Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfields Assessments (DBA) and EPA's Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBA) for the Kuskokwim River Watershed villages. Mr. Billy and Administrator Jackson discussed the hardship that Alaska TRPs face in trying to clean up brownfield properties without eligibility for the competitive Brownfields grants. The Alaska TRPs are networking and researching other available funding sources to help them address brownfield properties.



EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Joey Billy, the KRWC Brownfields Coordinator.