

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 – Located in central Rhode Island, Coventry has an industrial past. After the decline of most of its industrial uses in the mid-20th century, much of the town has become suburban with limited affordable housing; only 5.3 percent of the existing housing stock is considered affordable. The 760 Tiogue Avenue property has historically been undeveloped, although there was evidence that the property was used for illegal dumping of solid waste. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments at the property, which confirmed the presence of high concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soils. The Coventry Housing Associates Corporation secured federal, state and local funds totaling over \$9.8 million to support cleanup and housing development. RIDEM also used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to help finance the cleanup activities, which included the removal of the PAH-contaminated soils. The housing complex is currently under construction and will feature 44 units of affordable housing and a community center. This project provides much needed affordable housing for low-income households while removing an environmental and public health hazard.



The construction of affordable housing and a community center at the former 760 Tiogue Avenue property.

REGION 2

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE (SRMT) – Located in Akwesasne, New York, SRMT has developed a Tribal Brownfields Response Program using Section 128(a) Response Program funding. Although SRMT is relatively new to the Brownfields program, the tribe has made great progress. The tribe developed a site database and identified 30 potential brownfields that include: old buildings,

former dumps, abandoned marinas, former gas stations (with underground storage tanks) and two large automotive junkyards. To address public participation, the tribe created an information kiosk and a brownfields website for the public to access response program information. In addition, the tribe completed a response plan and intends to develop a technical manual for the cleanup of properties. In the coming year, SRMT will begin to prioritize the properties on its inventory, form a community committee and Akwesasne Brownfields Committee, and initiate the assessment of properties. The SRMT community is interested in brownfields so the tribe is planning a public brownfields conference that will be open to other tribal nations.

REGION 3

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA – The Jefferson at Logan Circle property was the first Voluntary Cleanup Project completed in the District of Columbia. The redeveloped property is approximately 0.8-acres and located in the middle of a developed residential and commercial area. The historical land use of the various parcels included: a super market, petroleum dispensing facility, an apartment building, print shop, retail store, restaurant, liquor store, and dry cleaner. Environmental assessments concluded that the primary contaminants of concern were petroleum products and chlorinated solvents in both soil and ground water. The District of Columbia used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the excavation of approximately 25,805 cubic yards of petroleum impacted soil to a depth of 33 feet, which was transported to an approved recycling facility. The ground water generated during construction was also pumped to a 20,000 gallon tank for sediment settling and free phase separation, and then treated prior to discharge. The property was redeveloped into a multi-story mixed apartment complex consisting of commercial and residential condominiums.



The new Jefferson at Logan Circle multi-story mixed use apartment complex.

REGION 4

TENNESSEE – The Citizens Gas and Light property in Jackson was a manufactured gas plant that operated from 1871 to 1931. It is located on the northern fringe of downtown Jackson between a Farmers Market and a disadvantaged neighborhood. The City of Jackson was awarded a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields 104(k) Cleanup Grant to remove source contamination areas and install a soil cap. A multi-disciplinary team from the Jackson Energy Authority, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the City of Jackson, US EPA and the private sector worked together to make this cleanup project a success. TDEC used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight and over \$250,000 additional funds were leveraged to remove 610 tons of coal tar-impacted soils. The property is now an urban pocket park that complements the vision of downtown Jackson's revitalization.

REGION 5

INDIANA – The Indiana Brownfields Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide technical oversight for the cleanup of a vacant junkyard property in Indianapolis. The property was operated as an auto service and salvage yard from the mid-1980s to 2005. Cleanup activities included the removal of soil contaminated with automotive fluids and a heating oil underground storage tank. After the Indiana Brownfields Program issued a Site Status Letter verifying that contamination was adequately addressed on the property, a \$4.5 million residential redevelopment project was initiated. The residential project is located in the low-income Martindale neighborhood and near a popular local greenway called the Monon Trail. This 46-acre redevelopment will be built on several former brownfields, and the hope is to draw commercial and light industrial users to some of these properties. This project will help the City of Indianapolis continue its larger redevelopment efforts.

REGION 6

TEXAS – The Cactus Pipe and Supply property, located in downtown Houston, was used to remanufacture and sell oilfield pipe from 1953 to 1992. After operations stopped, the property was abandoned and fenced, but was used for illegal dumping of tires and debris. The community surrounding the property lacks sufficient green space and parkland; therefore, the city implemented a plan with the Houston Parks Board to convert this blighted property into a recreational park consisting of soccer fields and walking trails. Environmental assessments revealed that the property was contaminated by naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) as well as hydrocarbons and metals including barium, cadmium, chromium and lead. Initial cleanup activities included the removal of NORM, metals and hydrocarbon-impacted soils. The City of Houston later removed the abandoned buildings and the Railroad Commission of Texas used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to perform a ground water assessment. Additional investigation of the ground water is underway and the city will remove the remaining soil piles in the summer of 2011. The Railroad Commission will then resurvey the property for NORM and perform cleanup, as necessary, in anticipation of the redevelopment to parkland.

REGION 7

MISSOURI – The Missouri Department of Natural Resources Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program (BVCP) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host its 7th Annual Brownfields Conference in conjunction with the Missouri Waste Control Coalition's (MWCC) 39th Annual Environmental Conference. The Brownfields Conference brought together over 100 participants from five states, made up of city and community representatives, consultants and other stakeholders including several state and federal agencies. For the first time, the conference was expanded to two days to include Missouri's new concept, an Information Café. The Information Café provided an opportunity to discuss topics, tools and information resources as well as to build networks around topical areas of interest. The Café session had 15 conversation tables where a topic host briefly presented information and invited discussion. There were six successive 30-minute sessions with 30-minute breaks in between. The Café format was used to provide an opportunity for free-form discussions around specific ideas, tools or resources. It was also an opportunity to extend discussions that began with the presentation sessions held the day before. The BVCP also hosted a display providing information about its program in the exhibit hall along with many other sponsors.



Participants at the Missouri Brownfields Conference's Information Café session.

REGION 8

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE (CRST) – CRST is nearing the completion of the cleanup and demolition of the former White Horse Community Day School. The abandoned school building was originally built in 1952 and was held as Tribal Trust Land until 1997 when ownership was transferred to CRST. Although the tribe has kept the building locked and boarded, it has been repeatedly broken into, salvaged and vandalized, creating a public health and safety risk for the tribe. The building continued to deteriorate until the spring of 2009 when the Tribal Brownfields Program took action and used its Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an assessment and begin cleanup. Initial cleanup included removal of asbestos containing materials and other hazardous substances, and trash throughout the interior of the building. CRST is now using its

\$200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to complete the cleanup activities. The tribe is currently seeking redevelopment funds to construct a new community center, which would include space for the community's fire truck.



Demolition and cleanup activities at the former White Horse Community Day School property.

REGION 10

WASHINGTON – The Washington Department of Ecology used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host a two-day Brownfields and Land Revitalization Conference in Spokane which focused on “Turning Liabilities into Assets in the Inland Northwest.” This was the first gathering of its kind in the Spokane area and it attracted over 200 attendees. The conference brought together a network of public and private sector stakeholders to have an open dialogue on brownfields redevelopment efforts and plans in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Panelists at the various sessions represented tribes, local governments, economic development interests, and real estate developers and investors.

REGION 9

GILA RIVER – A former used oil processing and transport business, located within the Lone Butte Industrial Park (LBIP), began collecting used oil from oil/lubrication shops, service stations and airports in September 1993. The used oil was brought on-site and processed into fuel for sale to companies that burned the used oil fuel for energy recovery. The company ceased operations in the late 1990s and left more than 400,000 gallons of used oil and other fluids on the property. After the property was abandoned, the LBIP conducted cleanup activities which included the removal of all liquid wastes as well as all tanks and drums at the property. The LBIP also performed a screening level site investigation which revealed soil contamination. The Gila River Indian Community used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to review and approve the work plan and provide oversight to the removal of the contaminated soil. In May 2011, the LBIP leased the property to Drill Brothers Inc., a company that conducts trench work for utilities such as fiber optics and piping.