

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 – The Rhode Island Family Life Center/Open Doors (Open Doors) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by supporting the formerly incarcerated. Open Doors is redeveloping a former brownfields property in Providence's Environmental Justice Focus Zone into 19 affordable efficiency apartments, community space and Open Doors offices. The property was the former Sealtest Ice Cream Factory. After completing Phase I and II environmental assessments on the property, Open Doors applied for and received a \$200,000 EPA Cleanup grant. In 2009, during construction, it was determined that an additional investigation was needed surrounding two abandoned underground storage tanks (UST) on the property. Open Doors worked with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to remove the USTs and complete assessment activities. All state oversight of the investigation and remediation was funded through RIDEM's Section 128(a) Response Program grant. This project highlights the partnership of cooperative funding partners working together to restore a historic landmark to enhance the beauty and productivity in an economically depressed neighborhood. The \$6 million Open Doors project was completed at the end of 2011.



A former brownfield in the Borough of Manasquan is now home to five luxury townhomes.

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY – The Borough of Manasquan recently relocated its municipal offices and police station (Borough Hall property). Soil and ground water contamination from a leaking underground storage tank presented a significant obstacle for the transfer and ultimate redevelopment of the former Borough Hall property. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee, oversaw the cleanup

of this former brownfield, which is now home to five beautiful luxury townhomes in this vibrant shore community. This property, once a cornerstone of Manasquan, is playing an important role in the downtown redevelopment. The successful completion of this project was reached through the strong public-private partnership that developed between the municipality and the developer. The successful redevelopment of this property has already paved the way for new development in downtown Manasquan including a hotel and restaurant.

REGION 3

VIRGINIA – Arlington County recently completed construction and remedial action for the Long Bridge Park property off of Old Jefferson Davis Highway in the former Arlington Industrial Area. The county enrolled two parcels of land totaling 18 acres into Virginia's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) and completed characterization and risk assessment for these properties. The main contaminant of concern was lead; however, by working through the VRP, Arlington was able to stabilize and consolidate the lead contaminated soils into landscape features on the property to save disposal costs. Oversight of the cleanup was done under the VRP funded by Section 128(a) Response Program funds. Since these properties were to be used for recreational purposes, it was extremely important to have the involvement of the VRP project manager and risk assessor as part of the redevelopment team and involved in the capping design to mitigate the risks posed by past use of the property. Arlington is moving forward with Phases 2 through 4, which will include three parcels of land adding 10 additional acres to this park. The construction work will be coordinated with the remedial action work and include an aquatics center, a health and fitness facility, and additional parking. The construction work will also meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Building standard.

REGION 4

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA – The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida completed the subsurface assessment of three cattle dip vats. Two of the assessments, coordinated and managed by personnel from ERMD, determined that these areas are no longer impacted by metals and pesticides. The third cattle dip vat at the Red Barn Site was assessed and approximately 3,200 tons of arsenic and pesticide impacted material were excavated. Following the excavation, 32,000 gallons of contaminated water were pumped and the excavated area was subsequently backfilled with clean lime rock material. The tribe used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct oversight of these response actions and has

been used successfully in the coordination and management of field and laboratory activities as well. With oversight funding from the Section 128(a) Response Program and financial assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fund the necessary assessment and remediation tasks, ERMD can better manage and institute engineering controls for future use of these areas. Consequently, the growing population of the tribe and the associated demand for housing has resulted in the development of housing projects that are in or near these assessed/remediated areas.

REGION 5

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS – In an attempt to repurchase land throughout the reservation, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians obtained a 32-acre property bordering Manistee Lake. The property was historically contaminated for over 100 years. Former uses include a lumber company, a chemical production operation, a heavy equipment manufacturer, and a fiberglass production company. Based on chemical analysis, the results of soil samples collected on the property confirmed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs (SVOCs), metals and inorganic constituents above the Michigan cleanup criteria as accumulated in the soil and ground water. Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, the Tribal Brownfields Coordinator managed an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant used to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments and develop reuse and cleanup plans. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) provided oversight on the project. The tribe was awarded an EPA Cleanup grant to conduct cleanup activities to reduce risk on the property including the excavation of contaminated source material, soil capping and fencing contaminated wetlands. In October 2011, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians received a letter from the MDEQ stating that the actions conducted on the property have reduced the exposure risk at the property. Reuse plans for the area include new field offices for the tribe's Natural Resource Department, conference space, greenhouses for cultivating native plants, and a smokehouse and small retail shop for the sale of fresh fish.

REGION 6

EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL, INC. (ENIPC) – In October 2011, EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization Director David Lloyd and EPA Region 6 Targeted Brownfields Assessment Coordinator Janet Brooks visited several of the pueblos in New Mexico. The purpose of the visit was to help them better understand brownfields issues and concerns as they relate to New Mexico pueblos. During the visit, they attended a Nambe feast, experienced the Pueblo culture, and saw the unique environmental issues that affect the Pueblo. The group also



EPA OBLR Director David Lloyd and EPA Region 6 TBA Coordinator Janet Brooks visited several of the pueblos in New Mexico.

met with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Section 128(a) program manager and the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) Training coordinator to discuss and explain the working relationship in New Mexico. The SFCC is a recipient of a Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. ENIPC has met with all of the 22 pueblos/tribes and compiled a list of training needs. ENIPC is currently working with SFCC to provide targeted training suggestions for the pueblos. ENIPC's partnerships with the EPA Region 6 Targeted Brownfields office, NMED and SFCC will help the pueblos build capacity to address brownfields issues and maximize its Section 128(a) Response Program funding.

REGION 7

NEBRASKA – The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to kick off its newest public outreach effort on institutional controls (ICs) in Nebraska. Contaminated ground water plumes can be up to four miles long in this state. Often, ground water well drillers are not aware of these exceptionally long plumes or ICs related to the plumes. Thus, NDEQ is targeting this public outreach towards increasing knowledge of ICs among well drillers in the state. NDEQ gave a presentation in January 2011 to over 100 well driller industry professionals at the Nebraska Well Drillers Association Short Course in Kearney. In addition, NDEQ partnered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) to incorporate ICs into their existing interactive mapping system. NDNR's mapping service is used by ground water well drillers for researching other existing ground water wells in the area prior to drilling a new well. These proactive outreach efforts will bring awareness to Nebraska's IC procedures and reduce the risk to human health and the environment.

REGION 8

CROW CREEK – In April 2012, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) surveyed a new fence line on the Crow Creek Reservation and discovered a cache of 18 abandoned drums with unknown contents. BIA alerted the Crow Creek Tribal Response Program (TRP), a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee, who in turn took steps to cordon off the area and called EPA's Brownfields program office. The tribe was immediately referred to EPA's Emergency Response Program and an EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and Superfund Technical Assistance Response Team (START) contractor were dispatched to the property. Hazard classification testing indicated that the viscous liquid substance in 10 of the drums was a VOC, many of which are hazardous substances. Moreover, several of these 10 drums were punctured, leaking or otherwise compromised. There were an additional eight drums in similar condition with what appeared to be solidified road or roofing tar. Following hazard classification testing, all drums were transported to the BIA police impound lot to be secured while awaiting disposal. The tribe's environmental program was involved with EPA's OSC and the contractor throughout the entire process—observing, learning and offering assistance where needed. The Crow Creek TRP is building their response capacity through their involvement in this removal action and they continue to engage themselves as the process continues.



Hazard classification testing of drums on the Crow Creek Reservation.

technology, and environmental assessments for the purposes of evaluating potentially contaminated sites for future cleanup and reuse efforts. YTEP staff have completed Phase I Environmental Site Assessment training and now conduct Phase I assessments in-house. YTEP staff have also obtained valuable Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and Emergency Response training. Several YTEP staff have completed the required 40-hour HAZWOPER training and select staff have received Hazardous Materials Certifications. In 2011, YTEP staff received additional Emergency Response training, including diving courses for responding to submerged vessels and associated HazMat issues that occur regularly on the Klamath River, the central feature of the Yurok Reservation. All of these efforts help the tribe in its goals of reclaiming and restoring tribal lands for future generations of Yurok people.



Participants of the emergency response training.

REGION 10

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK – Since its establishment in 2010, the Native Village of Eyak's (NVE) Tribal Response Program (TRP) has used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to create a brownfields inventory and public record, conducted site visits, and provided community outreach to educate people in the Cordova, Alaska area about the need to identify and reuse brownfields. In 2011, NVE's TRP focused on building tribal capacity for responding to oil spills and preventing the creation of new brownfields. In October 2011, the native village hosted training that was funded and presented jointly by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Prevention and Response program, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), and EPA's Office of Emergency Management. Participants learned about recognizing hazardous materials, the incident command system, oil spill response tactics and decontamination techniques. Attendees also had the opportunity to don personal protective equipment and work with response equipment such as a containment boom.

REGION 9

YUROK TRIBE – Since 2008, the Yurok Tribe's first year of receiving Section 128(a) Response Program funding, the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP) identified over 179 potential brownfields on the Yurok Reservation. The Response Program funding enabled the YTEP to build tribal and program staff capacity in the areas of hazardous materials and emergency response, field survey and inventory methods, data management and