

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 on the Pawcatuck River in the Village of Shannock, the Knowles Mill Park was the location of various grist, textile and woolen mills that operated for more than 100 years. It was also the location of a fierce battle in 1636 between the Narragansett and Pequot Indians over fishing rights. In 2012, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete an environmental assessment of Knowles Mill for the Town of Richmond and an EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to remove over 600 tons of coal ash contaminated soil. Redevelopment planning included coordination with the RI State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to develop a reuse plan that incorporated the park's historic design, preserved portions of the former mill building, and featured a Native American commemorative plaque. The town completed redevelopment of the property as a handicap accessible/Americans with Disabilities Act compliant historic interpretive park that includes a canoe portage and launch.



A riverside trail at Knowles Mill Park.

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY – The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)—a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee—oversaw the assessment and cleanup of the project area that was transformed into the New Jersey Trenton Tunnel and River Walk Park. The Trenton Tunnel provides direct access from NJ Route 129 to Trenton's Minor League baseball stadium and to state government offices. But the tunnel's creative design, which offers beautiful views along the Delaware River, also serves as the foundation for River Walk Park. This 6.3-acre community park, which sits atop the Trenton Tunnel, graces the South Trenton neighborhood with beautiful

gardens, a playground, and an historic walkway documenting the city's evolution from prehistoric times through the present. NJDEP oversaw the assessment that revealed various heavy metals, semi volatile organic compounds, and historic fill from the former industrial and commercial past use in the project area. Remedial efforts included the removal of several underground storage tanks, excavation of contaminated soil, recovery and monitoring of ground water, and capping to ensure long-term protection. Since its completion, the tunnel has served thousands of motorists and the surrounding neighborhood. Traffic has been redirected from local streets and residents and visitors alike now enjoy River Walk Park.



River Walk Park that sits above the Trenton Tunnel.

REGION 3

MARYLAND – A former dry cleaning and laundry property in Salisbury will be redeveloped into affordable housing. The Sunshine Cleaners Dry Cleaning Plant began operations on the 0.54-acre site in 1928. In 1974 the facility shifted its operation to a clean linen supplier for hotels and restaurants. The facility has expanded over the years and now consists of a 19,000 square foot, multi-story building with office and storage space. After operations ceased in the mid-2000s, the owner's estate donated the property to the City of Salisbury. The Maryland Department of the Environment used Section 128(a) funding to provide oversight of assessment and cleanup activities on the property. Cleanup activities included asbestos abatement from the contaminated structures and the removal of an underground storage tank. The city plans to donate the property to Habitat for Humanity later this year to allow for its redevelopment into affordable housing.

REGION 4

TENNESSEE – The vacant, 19.4-acre Brookside Mills property in Knox County started its industrial life in 1885 as a textile mill, employing roughly 1,000 people at its peak. The property went on to be used for fabric weaving, dyeing, and sewing operations, and as a department store. For a time, operators burned coal as an energy source. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation used Section 128(a) funding to oversee environmental assessments the city completed through an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant. The assessments revealed no signs of contamination and the property was deemed ready for reuse. In 2012, Holston Gases—one of the largest independent suppliers of industrial, medical, propane, and beverage gases in the United States—announced they would expand their business in Knoxville onto the Brookside Mills property. Completed in 2013, this \$10 million project is forecast to produce between 20 and 30 new jobs.



Holston Gases on the Former Brookside Mills property.

REGION 5

ILLINOIS – Illinois is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to enhance the Pecatonica Prairie hiking and biking path. The IL EPA's Office of Site Evaluation (OSE) conducted five separate site-specific brownfields assessments in the City of Freeport, all located along the Pecatonica River. At the CMC Heartland property, OSE conducted an environmental assessment that resulted in the removal of numerous underground tanks and the initiation of a \$750,000 EPA time-critical removal action. A paved hiking/biking trail now runs through the former CMC property and continues to Stephenson Avenue, where it intersects an area in which OSE performed environmental assessments of two former gas stations. At one of the properties, the tanks were removed and replaced with clean fill, and the building was demolished. The other gas station has yet to be remediated. In 2012, OSE collected soil and ground water data for the City of Freeport on another parcel of property that will eventually become part of the Pecatonica Prairie Path. When complete, the hiking and biking path will connect the cities of Freeport and Rockford.



The Pecatonica Prairie hiking and biking path.

REGION 6

OKLAHOMA – The new Devon Energy World Headquarters Tower was completed at the end of 2012. At a cost of approximately \$750 million, this new building is 908 feet tall—the tallest building in Oklahoma—has 50 floors, and offers 1.8 million square feet of space. Part of this property was previously occupied by Oklahoma City's Galleria Parking Garage, which ceased operations in the early 2000s. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the assessment and cleanup of the property. The assessments, which included a grid pattern of soil boring samples, revealed soil and groundwater contamination from several underground storage tanks (USTs). These USTs and 280 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed, and 61,814 gallons of contaminated water were treated and disposed of properly. The new building now serves as the northern anchor of Oklahoma City's aggressive "Core to Shore" downtown redevelopment project.

REGION 7

IOWA – Within a 30-acre, former industrial site in Grinnell (pop. 9,000), a five-acre factory building built in 1962 had sat vacant since the closing of a very important community employer in 1986. The business had disposed of hazardous materials by burying drums of solvents and resin wastes, and by flushing similar materials on the loading dock over a concrete apron area. In 1992, under Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) oversight, 119 drums of solvent and resin waste and 360 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed by the responsible party. After a decade of groundwater monitoring, a No Further Action letter was issued. In 2012, the City of Grinnell and the Grinnell School District approached the IDNR to further define and review the property's environmental status in preparation for potential redevelopment. Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, IDNR conducted a comprehensive environmental assessment that determined no risks to the environment or public health. This allowed the city and School District to pursue ownership of the property for an industrial park or consolidated school campus development project.

REGION 8

TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS – The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians applied for and received EPA assistance through a Targeted Brownfields Assessment for the abandoned Melroe Manufacturing Building (MMB). The completed TBA identified several potential environmental and physical threats. In December 2012, the Tribal Response Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funds to contract the remediation, demolition, recycling and disposal of contaminated media necessary at the MMB. Approximately 800 square feet of asbestos-containing transite ceiling material was removed and disposed of at an approved landfill. Additionally, approximately 760 cubic feet of electronic waste was recycled, and PCB-containing light ballasts and mercury switches were removed and disposed of properly. The MMB is located along a state highway that runs directly through the reservation, and it sits among several other commercial and industrial buildings. Due to the MMB's central location and existing infrastructure, the Tribe intends to refurbish and reuse the structure now that contamination has been removed.



Forrest Blake, TEPA Compliance Officer.

REGION 9

HOOPA TRIBE – The Hoopa Tribal Environmental Protection Agency (TEPA) has used Section 128(a) Tribal Response Plan funding to develop a Compliance Program and deploy a full time Compliance Officer (CO). The CO enforces two of the Tribe's ordinances (Title 49, The Solid Waste Ordinance; and Title 37, The Pollution Discharge Ordinance), issues citations, gathers evidence, presents environmental cases in Tribal Court, and develops and maintains a tribal inventory of contaminated properties. The Compliance Program has successfully developed memoranda of understanding with the Tribal Police Department, Tribal Court system, and Tribal Assistance For Needy Families Department. From January to April 2013, the CO responded to 31 dispatch calls, issued 10 verbal warnings and 15 citations, and processed 17 court cases. The deployment of the CO and his ability to respond to environmental calls has proven to be an invaluable resource to protect the health and welfare of the community, as well as the environment of the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation.

REGION 10

MAKAH NATION – The Strait of Juan de Fuca accommodates one of the busiest waterways in the United States and is the primary shipping lane for commercial vessels bound to port facilities in Washington State and British Columbia. Because of the Tribe's risk of exposure to oil spills, the Makah Tribal Council (MTC) has been involved in oil spill policy and response program capacity development since the early 1970s. Along those lines, MTC recognized that it needed to define a formal working relationship with the federal agencies that maintain oversight and authority over oil spill pollution. Over the past few years, the Tribe has made significant strides in working towards oil spill mitigation and prevention, supported in large part through Section 128(a) Response Program funding. The Makah Nation has served as a voting member on the Executive Committee of the Northwest Regional Response Team and was the first tribe to serve in this role nationally. They also worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance consultation, leverage resources, and improve oil spill response coordination. On April 12, 2013, an MOA was entered into between the Tribe and the U.S. Coast Guard. To commemorate this partnership in protecting the waters of the Puget Sound off the coast of Washington State, the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard District 13 invited the MTC to name a conference room in the Seattle Federal Building. This event was attended by the Governor of Washington State, Jay Inslee, and by representatives from Senator Maria Cantwell's office.