

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 is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to inventory contaminated properties on its lands. The tribe occupies two separate locations in Maine, Perry and Princeton, which are commonly referred to as the Pleasant Point and Indian Township Reservations, respectively. The tribe is conducting an inventory of properties on the Pleasant Point Reservation. Through its inventory efforts, the tribe has identified and begun work on several contaminated properties. An assessment is currently underway at the former Gates building, a former upholstery manufacturing building with suspected soil contamination resulting from previous manufacturing activities. The tribe is also planning to conduct an assessment on a privately owned junk yard and create an ordinance that prevents private landowners from operating dumps on the reservation in the future. The tribe conducted Phase I and Phase II assessments at a former museum, where a leaking underground storage tank was identified and contaminated soil was removed and replaced. Additionally, Phase I and Phase II assessments were completed on a private property adjacent to the reservation. It is expected that this property will be the future home of a new tribal elementary school.



Phase II activities at the Passamaquoddy Public Works Garage property.



Artist rendition of the new Town of Princeton public library.

REGION 3

VIRGINIA – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Outreach Conference on June 12, 2012 at the DEQ Central Office in Richmond. Over 100 participants were educated on internal and external VRP processes and procedures to help improve the quality of project submissions and the timeliness of projects. Program participants and their representatives were given an internal checklist to increase their understanding of the technical requirements for a property, which will help them complete the program as expeditiously as possible. The DEQ staff also strongly recommended upfront meetings with program participants at the time that eligibility is established in order to discuss issues the project may face and to provide a detailed discussion of the conceptual redevelopment plan. DEQ feels that more meetings and work sessions will save time in the long run and eliminate repeated cycles of comments and responses. The conference also included presentations from successful and innovative projects, and an overview and process discussion regarding the steps for risk assessment. The participants provided positive feedback and the entire program was posted on the VRP website for future reference.

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY – The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) uses Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee environmental assessments and cleanups of properties. Working closely with NJDEP, the Town of Princeton assessed and cleaned up a former brownfield and redeveloped it into a new public library. NJDEP has worked diligently with cities and towns to restore this and other properties across the state that were once contaminated with industrial wastes. Today, the library presents an opportunity for intellectual and cultural growth, through the educational opportunities that it provides to the Princeton Borough and Princeton Township communities.

REGION 4

MISSISSIPPI – The former Gautier Oil Brownfield site was utilized by the railroad and its lessees since 1870. Past uses include wood treating (creosote) operations, waste oil recovery. Following a period of inactivity, in 1985, the railroad removed above-ground structures, storage and process tanks, drums and piles of sludge, sand filter beds, and excavated and backfilled the surface impoundment south of the railroad trestle near the West Pascagoula River. Since that time, CSX Transportation (CSXT) has been working closely with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) —a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee—to evaluate environmental impacts associated with the property and adjacent River and Bayou Pierre. Affected environmental media include soil, ground water and near shore sediments of the River and Bayou. The Mississippi DEQ has provided oversight of the removal and disposal of approximately 16,000 tons of impacted soil and 7,000 tons of sediment; removal, storage and replanting of 25,000 wetland plants; and the restoration of approximately three acres of fringe wetlands. To date, CSXT has spent over \$15 million to remediate the property. CSXT is planning to partner with the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain to establish a conservation easement on the entire site. It is CSXT's goal to restore the site to its natural habitat, which will promote wildlife use. In addition to the conservation easement, CSXT plans to apply for site certification in 2012 through the Wildlife Habitat Council.



Replanted wetland grasses at the former Gautier Oil Brownfield site.

REGION 5

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND – As part of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi's Brownfields Program, the tribe is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to develop an Environmental Response Program that can help prevent environmental incidents and appropriately address properties with pre-existing environmental degradation. The program includes conducting an inventory of brownfields associated with tribal lands

and Phase I Environmental Site Assessments prior to new land acquisitions. The tribe is currently developing its soil quality cleanup standards and the prerequisite Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), in addition to a hazardous waste management plan. The tribe also initiated a waste minimization program in connection with its General Assistance Program funding. An interdepartmental Recycling Advisory Team initiated multi-stream recycling, composting and universal waste collection programs, and is working on better waste minimization outreach and education for the tribal community.

REGION 6

TEXAS – Crestview Station in Austin was a former chemical research facility that processed components for soaps, foams and glues from 1949 until 2005. The property was identified as a prime location for a high-density, mixed use project and transit-oriented development. The property applied to the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program—funded by a Section 128(a) Response Program grant—to facilitate the assessment and cleanup of known and suspected areas where waste materials were buried. Cleanup consisted of the excavation and disposal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of buried waste products and impacted soils; ground water monitoring; and the implementation of an institutional control to address a benzene plume in one small area of the property. The 71-acre Crestview Station redevelopment project includes over 500 single-family homes, 600 apartments, recreational fields and 150,000-square feet of retail and office space built around a Capitol Metro rail stop. Property values have increased significantly and several new jobs were created as a result of the redevelopment. Crestview Station is a key component to the city's plan to connect Austin through future expansion of the public transportation system.

REGION 7

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA – The Winnebago Environmental Protection Department (EPD) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to develop a newsletter to promote its programs and introduce its staff and inform the public about environmental issues. The newsletter contains articles about local environmental such as Earth Day, spring and fall Cleanup, and Public and Legal Notices. The newsletter also presents success stories about site-specific environmental activities. The Winnebago also used funding to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments at the St. Augustine Water Boiler Plant property located on the reservation. The cinderblock buildings on the property were constructed in the early 1950s and the property contained seven aboveground storage tanks that used sand filtration media to filter water to tribal entities and heat the buildings. The tribe is in the process of applying for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to complete the work on the property. The goal of the project is to restore the dilapidated property to commercial or residential reuse.

REGION 8

COLORADO – The Urban Land Conservancy (ULC) is a nonprofit organization committed to using real estate as a tool to benefit urban communities. In much the same way that a land trust preserves open space for future generations, ULC preserves real estate assets in urban areas to ensure their continued community benefit. Blake Street Transportation Oriented Development (TOD), located in Denver, is one property that was acquired to help accomplish their mission. The Blake Street TOD property is located directly across from the Blake Station on the East Corridor Commuter Rail line running between downtown Denver and Denver International Airport. The line is under construction with a preliminary opening scheduled for late 2015. When ULC acquired the site, it had been foreclosed upon and exhibited significant blight. The Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS) worked with ULC to provide a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA). The OPS TBA funding comes from an interagency agreement funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Section 128(a) Response Program grant. Assessment activities included the removal of two petroleum underground storage tanks and the collection of samples and evaluation of soil under the tanks. This information was critical in preparation for site design and engineering parameters in order to respect environmental health and produce responsible development. Subsequent to the assessment and tank removal, ULC began the demolition process and is now conducting design and engineering planning. Their goal is to return this underutilized, 1.4-acre property assemblage to a community asset and create a model of healthy neighborhood growth through the removal of blight and construction of a mixed use development including affordable, workforce housing near transit.

REGION 9

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION – The Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation) is evaluating renewable energy development for a previously disturbed mine-scarred area known as the ASARCO Mission Mine Tailings. Located in the San Xavier District near Tucson, Arizona, the proposed property is a former brownfield on "disturbed land" that was degraded in support of mining. The surrounding local area is currently zoned for active mining; however, the lease with the Nation expired in 2009. In 2010, the Nation's Brownfields Program worked with EPA's RE-Powering America's Land Program and with the Abandoned Mine Lands Team to provide documentation for "Renewable Energy Development Opportunities, ASARCO Mission Mine Tailings Area for Planning a Potential Renewable Energy Project on a 280-Acre Portion of Mine Tailings" and the "Summary of Geotechnical Analysis Work Performed on ASARCO Mission Mine Tailings Area, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation" reports. In January 2012, the Nation conducted a geotechnical stability assessment to determine the physical viability of a solar photovoltaic facility on this site; results of the study are pending. The Nation is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of these continuing activities.



Geotechnical stability assessment activities at the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation.

REGION 10

ALASKA – In June 2012, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Reuse and Redevelopment Program and an EPA Alaska Brownfield Project Manager met with Section 128(a) Response Program funded tribes. These tribes are managed by the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council (KRWC) and the Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC)—both based in Bethel, a "hub" community for the region's smaller villages—and the Native Village of Tununak (Nelson Island Consortium (NIC)). The three programs have some overlap in the communities they serve and are working to strengthen their partnership to make their programs more effective in the region. KRWC serves 56 Alaska Native villages in the Kuskokwim River watershed, including the seven NIC communities. ONC is in its first year of Section 128(a) Response Program funding and mainly covers Bethel. The communities served by the three programs have many types of environmental concerns in common, including old fuel-storage tank farms, abandoned school sites and open dumps, all complicated by increased rates of erosion to rapid changes in the region's climate. As part of the meeting, the group toured several potential brownfields in Bethel, presented information on their programs, and discussed possible resources for brownfields revitalization and approaches for collaborating on rural community outreach.



An ADEC Reuse and Redevelopment Program and an EPA Brownfield Project Manager met with several Section 128(a) funded tribes.