

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

MAINE – Staff from the Maine Brownfields Program provided assistance related to facility upgrades at their Eastern Manufacturing property in Brewer. Previous brownfields cleanup activities conducted in 2008 consisted of capping contaminated materials onsite along with a deed restriction prohibiting future excavation without approval of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). During the planning stage for installation of an elevator to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant access to the warehouse, the contractor contacted the Brownfields Program to provide notice of the intent to excavate and to design an investigation plan. The Brownfields Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct oversight, provide technical advice on how to conduct the investigation, and approve the activity. Results of soil samples showed levels of hazardous substances that required a remedial action. The contractor submitted a proposed plan for incorporating the hazardous materials into an onsite disposal area. Although the initial disposal area was not appropriate, DEP worked with the contractor to find an area that was environmentally appropriate and cost effective. This process allowed the contractor to efficiently conduct the necessary work at the facility while being protective of human health and the environment, and without disrupting ongoing operations.

REGION 2

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE – The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), located in Akwesasne, New York, received its first Section 128(a) Response Program cooperative agreement in fiscal year 2011. Since receiving the funding, the tribe is working to address the primary elements of a brownfields response program. Currently, the tribe is compiling an inventory of brownfields properties. The tribe completed a generic community action plan and met with the community to describe its cooperative agreement and environmental plan of action regarding brownfields properties. In addition, information about the cooperative agreement was published in the SRMT newspaper and public notification of the project was met on the SRMT Environmental Division website. Included on the website is an explanation of the new cooperative agreement, a description of brownfields, plans for seeking input from stakeholders regarding brownfields issues, contact information, and tribal training plans. All of these efforts promote the development of the tribe's new response program and environmental justice.

REGION 3

VIRGINIA – Redevelopment team members for the Mill at South River, a former industrial property in Waynesboro, announced that the project successfully completed a \$5.5 million voluntary remediation and site preparation phase of the redevelopment. It is the largest known voluntary brownfields investment by an individual in Virginia and ranks in the top seven percent in size of Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) properties in the state. The nearly 40-acre property with 490,000 square feet of buildings was committed to the VRP in 2005 and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight. The Mill at South River was originally the Crompton-Shenandoah Company's Waynesboro plant, a manufacturer of velvet, corduroy and velveteen fabric. The buildings on the complex were constructed and expanded, between 1926 and 1971, and currently provide leased space to various small industry and artisan tenants, warehouse space to trucking, and other industries. With the remediation and site preparation complete, as well as Planned Unit Development zoning in place for mixed use, the property is now positioned to move to the first phase of market-driven redevelopment. The Mill at South River's efforts to preserve and restore the historic buildings on property, along with the property's proximity to the downtown historic district and residential neighborhoods, is symbolic of the city's attempt to reshape its economy through adaptive reuse, while paying homage to its industrial heritage. The redevelopment team sees the Mill at South River as ideal for office, commercial, artisan, education, and residential use. The Mill's location along the South River also makes it ideal for a research facility, cold water restoration program and fish hatchery—all of which are being considered. In addition, the first phase of future renovations was registered for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification with the U.S Green Building Council.

REGION 4

KENTUCKY – The brownfields of Central Appalachia present great challenges and great opportunities. In an attempt to address the challenge of information and strategies exchange, Kentucky used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host "Exploring Community Revitalization in Central Appalachia." This conference was held at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, close to the borders of Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia—three states affected by the challenges. Staff from EPA Regions 3, 4 and 5 also attended the meeting. This was a participant-driven conference that brought together 29 attendees, representing a broad section of stakeholders, including the private sector and governmental and non-governmental agencies. The participants engaged in active discussions during

breakout sessions on eight topics. There were also seven “lightning round” presentations on successful projects in the regions. Many of the attendees were from organizations that were not previously familiar with each other and it appears that the event created several mutually beneficial collaborations.



Participants engaging in active discussions during a breakout session at the Central Appalachia Conference.

REGION 5

OHIO – Ohio EPA’s voluntary, statewide inventory of brownfields properties is now available to the public. Prospective brownfields properties must be included in the inventory in order to be eligible for Clean Ohio program grant funding. Local governments and private entities may submit information for inclusion in the online inventory. Information contained in the Ohio Brownfield Inventory includes details such as location, past use, utilities available, and proximity to major roads, airports and public transportation. It also includes Google Maps support to allow for use of Google features such as pan, zoom, MAP Views Terrain/Satellite/Hybrid, and “Street View.” Advanced query grid tools also allow for filtering, sorting, grouping, and exporting of brownfields property data. The Ohio Brownfield Inventory database is part of a new Ohio EPA Brownfield Inventory Support website which was developed, in part, with Section 128(a) Response Program funding. In addition to the database, this website includes resources for brownfields redevelopment and a media gallery highlighting some brownfields success stories. Also included are an application for inclusion in the Ohio Brownfield Inventory and an affidavit for removing a property from the Inventory. The new website is located at: <http://www.derr.epa.ohio.gov/Home.aspx>.

REGION 6

CHEROKEE NATION – The Cherokee Nation wants tourists to visit Tahlequah, the city its people established at the end of the Trail of Tears in northeastern Oklahoma. To that end, the Cherokee Nation’s tourism department is restoring four properties, starting with the state’s oldest municipal building, the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court, built in 1844 and vacant since 1994. The tribe used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct asbestos and lead based paint abatement at the building. Restoration is still underway; however, once the interior is renovated, the building will reopen as a museum. The collection will include an original printing press from

the Cherokee Advocate, the state’s oldest newspaper, which was published in the building. Cherokee Nation also plans to restore three more important sites: the Cherokee National Capitol Building, the Cherokee National Jail, and Ross Cemetery, where workers have already started to repair fences. “The Supreme Court building is extremely important in Cherokee history,” says Molly Jarvis, vice president of marketing for the Cherokee Nation. “This [restoration] is part of a very long-term plan for the Cherokee Nation to preserve our history. We’re starting with downtown Tahlequah.”

REGION 7

IOWA – Visitors to the downtown area of Fort Dodge travel past a two-block stretch of dilapidated buildings, empty store fronts, and vacant lots. With changing trends in retail and commercial businesses over the last 30 years, many city businesses had simply closed or moved to new growth areas on the fringe of this mid-size Iowa city. In addition to the dilapidated gateway to downtown, community leaders also learned that the only remaining grocery store in the central city, Fareway Stores, Inc., was going to close its existing downtown store, and consider moving to the growing commercial corridor on the east side of the city. City leaders contacted the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Brownfield Redevelopment Program for technical and financial assistance to evaluate the properties. Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, DNR assisted the city with Phase I and Phase II assessments to evaluate soil and ground water conditions, and conducted asbestos inspections in all the structures on the properties. The city presented this two-block, former brownfield area as ‘shovel ready’ and Fareway Stores, Inc. agreed to purchase the parcel and commit to construction of a new 33,000-square-foot downtown grocery store. Fareway Stores completed construction and held a grand opening ceremony in February 2011. The new store features a bakery, expanded meat and produce sections, a larger inventory of organic foods, and employs energy efficiency concepts such as using heat generated from the refrigeration system’s compressors to warm the interior of the store. This managed growth and infill redevelopment helps ensure that the downtown business district will remain a viable and valuable part of the character of Fort Dodge.



Fareway Stores, Inc. employees cut a ribbon to open a new grocery store in downtown Fort Dodge.

REGION 8

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE – The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe completed the cleanup of an abandoned motel and residence known as the “Old Warrior Motel.” The former motel was out of operation for over 15 years and was a major blight in the center of Fort Yates, North Dakota. Frequented by vandals, kids and substance abusers, the asbestos and lead contaminated buildings were also public health and safety hazards. To pay for the cleanup, Standing Rock Sioux used Section 128(a) Response Program funding as well tribal funds received from solid waste disposal fees. The tribe also used Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) support from Region 8 to characterize the lead and asbestos contamination prior to cleanup. Conducting the cleanup in the middle of winter presented various challenges, and delays were not uncommon, but the tribe was ultimately successful in removing contamination, demolishing the buildings, and properly disposing and recycling building debris. The tribe plans to reuse the prime location for new low-income housing and construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2011.



The “Old Warrior Motel” property during demolition and cleanup.

REGION 9

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY (SRPMIC) – The SRPMIC Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (EPNR) Division continues to build capacity for its Tribal Response Program in Arizona. EPNR recently hired a Senior Environmental Specialist (SES) to manage the Tribal Response Program. SRPMIC used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to promote a community-wide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event in the fall of 2010 and a second event is being planned during SRPMIC’s Earth Day in April 2011. Public outreach information is being provided through the newly developed Tribal Response Program webpage (<http://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/brownfields.asp>) on the EPNR website. The website provides a

description of brownfield sites and allows the public to request site assessments online. The website also contains a video of past brownfields projects and a Public Record information database of ongoing projects. In addition, EPNR has fostered public participation by announcing the Brownfields Program in SRPMIC’s Au-Authm Action News newspaper. The community also developed preventative draft ordinances and policies to support the goals of the Tribal Response Program. EPNR developed a close relationship with the Salt River Police Department Ranger Division to assist in environmental enforcement and the prevention of new brownfields.

REGION 10

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION (BBNA) – Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, BBNA, the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Bristol Bay (UAF-BB) Campus, Tribal Councils, Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) Tribal staff, and tribal members have all partnered to develop a Brownfields/Environmental Internship pilot program. The program benefits college students who wish to remain in their home village and earn credits toward an Environmental Science certificate. The student’s home village benefits through an environmental cleanup project and the UAF-BB Campus Environmental Science program benefits from a higher enrollment in the program. Arla Johnson, the BBNA Brownfields Program Manager says that “the project was labor intensive to initiate; however, it is rewarding to see the progress of students and the increased community interest in selected projects.” Kimberly Seybert was selected as the first intern and she has already earned 16 college credits toward her Environmental Studies Certificate. This approach to practical training and fieldwork means more human resources and increased capacity for BBNA to manage environmental cleanup projects in the local communities they serve.



Bristol Bay Native Association Brownfields Staff conducting fieldwork.