

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 – The City of Belfast was once a thriving seaport and shipbuilding center; however today, this small city is largely a service and tourism-based community. In 2010, the city began researching possibilities for the reuse of a former fish processing facility, the Stinson Canning property located in Belfast Harbor. The facility was unoccupied for approximately 20 years and adjacent to a residential neighborhood. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct a Phase II assessment that revealed asbestos and lead-based paint contamination throughout the building and low concentrations of petroleum impacts in the soil. The property was then entered into the MEDEP Voluntary Response Action Program and a “No Action Assurance” letter was issued with the understanding that the construction would comply with MEDEP’s requirements. The property will be developed into a service and manufacturing center to include brokerage, chandlery, deep water wind farm access, and other energy related processes as well as aluminum, fiberglass composite and wood fabrication. The redevelopment will be heavily dependent on labor which means significant job creation with the anticipation of additional businesses relocating to this beautiful seaside community.

REGION 2

NEW YORK – The Syracuse Center for Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (CoE) constructed their new headquarters on a former brownfield. The 60,000-square-foot complex is located on a 2.4-acre property in downtown Syracuse. Previously, the property was the location of Midtown Plaza, an eight-story building constructed in the early 1900s that was used as a typewriter factory for the Smith Corona Company. The contaminated Midtown Plaza building was demolished in 1999. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation used Section 128(a) Response Program



The Syracuse Center for Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (CoE) new headquarters.

funding to oversee the cleanup at the property. The Syracuse CoE redevelopment project was a collaborative effort led by Syracuse University with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Cornell University, Clarkson University and other public and private colleges across the state. The Syracuse CoE creates innovative environmental and energy technologies, focusing on air and water quality, green buildings, renewable energy and biofuels. The new headquarters features technologies that improve environmental quality and energy efficiency in buildings and urban communities.

REGION 3

DELAWARE – The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to assess two brownfield properties in Wilmington. The assessment at the M&N Property revealed hazardous substance contamination from the historic use of fill materials from past operations on the surrounding properties. The property is expected to be redeveloped for light industrial/commercial use. The second property assessed was the Terminal Avenue property which is approximately seven acres and was most recently operated as an asphalt plant from the 1950s to 2006. The assessment at the property found hazardous substance contamination from historic operations at the property. The redevelopment plans for the Terminal Avenue property include a mixture of industrial and commercial uses.

REGION 4

MISSISSIPPI – The University of Mississippi recently purchased the 69-acre Whirlpool brownfields property in Oxford for \$3.4 million. To ensure the property was safe as well as marketable, Whirlpool entered into a Brownfields Agreement with MDEQ to fund the cleanup of hydraulic fluid which contaminated a small 500-square foot area. Whirlpool began transitioning in July 2008 and completely closed the Oxford plant in March 2009 when its built-in cooking appliances operation moved to Cleveland, Tennessee. The University has a long-term vision for the property which includes constructing new buildings for storage and other purposes in an effort to open existing structures for academic space. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to facilitate discussions between the University and Whirlpool, and explained the benefits of its Brownfields Program including liability protection and income tax credits. Once Whirlpool entered the Brownfields Agreement, the company funded the assessment, remediation, monitoring and MDEQ’s oversight costs.

REGION 5

MICHIGAN – The City of St. Joseph combined three former brownfield properties into the Bluffsides Redevelopment project, a single contiguous public education, cultural and recreational complex. The project included three parcels (200 Broad Street, 235 Broad Street, and 501 Lions Park Drive), as well as portions of public right-of-way, totaling 7.9 acres. In October 2006, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an assessment that included the collection of soil and groundwater samples on all three parcels. The results of that investigation revealed that polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and pesticides exceeded MDEQ residential criteria at various locations. After cleanup was completed, the property was redeveloped into an educational and recreational park that opened in 2009. The attractions include a butterfly house, museum, carousel, interactive fountain, boardwalk and greenspace park that link the downtown business district to Silver Beach County Park and Lake Michigan. In addition, the redevelopment incorporated Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design components including native vegetation, green roofs, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy/green power. The Bluffsides redevelopment created two full-time and thirteen part-time jobs and received approximately \$9 million in private investments.



View of Bluffsides Redevelopment project showing carousel house and museum.

REGION 6

ARKANSAS – The old Martindale Clinic in the City of Hope is a former brownfield that will become the new home of Hope's Christian Charitable Clinic. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an assessment and oversee cleanup at the property. According to the City Manager Catherine Cook, "the ADEQ helped us through the complicated project and provided the utmost level of technical assistance to us." She added that "it's been a long process, but we're glad it's complete and now we can go onto the exciting renovation steps." The Christian Charitable Clinic is scheduled to open in early 2012.

REGION 7

WINNEBAGO TRIBE – Molly Feldick was hired on November 1, 2010 as the new Section 128(a) Tribal Brownfields Program Coordinator for the Winnebago Tribe in Winnebago, Nebraska. To supplement the more routine brownfield and hazardous substance training, Molly researched experienced Tribal Brownfields Coordinators to shadow for training purposes. With the help of the Midwest Assistance Program, Molly arranged a brownfield shadowing session with Marlene McDanal, a 9-year veteran Brownfields Tribal Response Program Manager with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation located in Montana. Marlene specializes in brownfields but she has enhanced her program through solid/hazardous waste, asbestos, and tribal meth lab awareness trainings. Molly learned step-by-step procedures for addressing a brownfield including field reporting, eligibility determination, Phase I and Phase II assessments, quality assurance project plans, and obtaining an environmental contractor. Molly and Marlene were recognized by EPA at the National Brownfields Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in April 2011. They established a resource network and professional friendship that they hope will advance the Section 128(a) Response Program for tribes throughout the country.



Marlene McDanal from the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes with Molly Feldick from the Winnebago Tribe.

REGION 8

SOUTH DAKOTA – On April 13, 2011, a first of its kind meeting was held in Pierre which included Response Program management and staff from the South Dakota Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), as well as their counterparts representing the Lower Brule Sioux, Oglala Sioux, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and Standing Rock Sioux tribes. DENR used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host and facilitate the meeting. DENR's Secretary Pirner welcomed the tribal representatives and provided an overview of the State's Brownfields Program. Administrators and department staff from various DENR

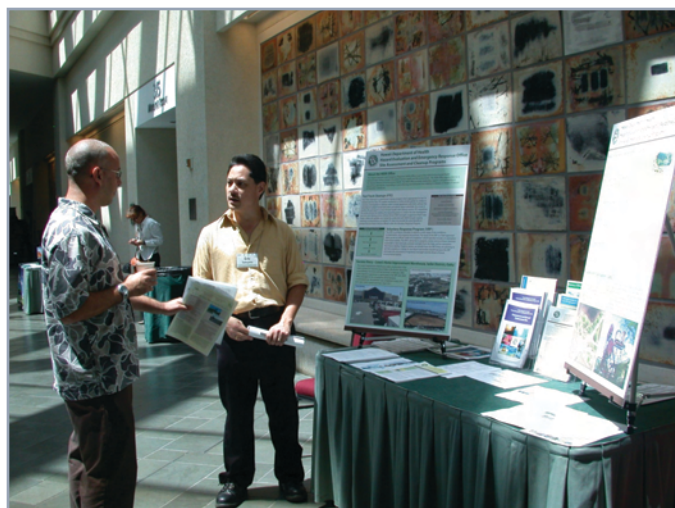
programs provided a briefing on their responsibilities and the major environmental issues impacting the state. Tribal and DENR staff provided an overview of brownfields success stories and discussed opportunities for the tribes to use EPA's Brownfields Program funding on tribal lands.



South Dakota DENR Secretary Steve Pirner addresses the five State and Tribal Response Programs in attendance.

REGION 9

HAWAII – The Hawaii Department of Health Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office (HDOH HEER Office) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to collaborate with two other state agencies, the Hawaii Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), to conduct the Hawaii Build and Buy Green + Brownfields Redevelopment + Green Workforce Development Conference and Expo held May 24, 2011. This is the first year the three standalone events were brought together as one. The combined event focused on regeneration and reuse of contaminated land, renewable energy, green buildings and green workforce development. Over 400 participants and 50 exhibitors attended. One of the many benefits of the combined event was an opportunity to make connections between brownfields redevelopment and sustainable technologies such as renewable energy. For example, the brownfields redevelopment track included a presentation on a solar field constructed at a former steel manufacturing site that was cleaned up with HDOH HEER Office oversight and achieved site closure with restricted use.



A booth at the Hawaii Build and Buy Green + Brownfields Redevelopment + Green Workforce Development Conference and Expo.

REGION 10

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM – The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct outreach and develop an inventory of brownfield properties throughout local communities. At the nearby Native Village of Tazlina, there is a strong interest to restore the old Copper Valley School, a historic building with cultural value which was previously a boarding school for many of the local tribes. The school was formerly funded by the Catholic Church of Anchorage, but a fire created an unstable, unsafe structure with contamination surrounding the property. ANTHC partnered with the Copper River Native Association, Copper Valley School Alumni Association, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to submit a targeted brownfields assessment (TBA) application to EPA to initiate the process towards reuse of this historical site. By working with local communities, ANTHC will continue to identify and prioritize multiple properties and facilitate the assessment, cleanup and reuse of these properties. In addition, ongoing plans are being made to host future trainings in the field to meet the needs of rural communities.