

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

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** – In August 2011, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments at the Richelson Building in Plymouth on behalf of the Grafton County Economic Development Council (Council). The assessment efforts allow the Council to receive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to purchase the property. The Council and the University of New Hampshire at Plymouth Business School will renovate the building to operate a small business resource center.

In addition, using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, NHDES completed assessment work and historical resources assessment work at the Kemp Property in Hillsborough in August 2011. The property marks the site of the inauguration of President Franklin Pierce and includes the historic fire pit. The Town of Hillsborough acquired the property for the extension of a waterfront park. Park development includes the town demolition of a two-story dwelling and the preservation of a waterfront cider mill, an historic cottage, and the inauguration fire pit structure.

## REGION 2

**NEW JERSEY** – In the Town of Kearny, a new park in the Elm Street neighborhood serves as an asset to its community as a result of the assessment and cleanup of an abandoned tool and dye shop. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the assessment and cleanup of the property. The transformation of this property was completed through an open process that engaged various stakeholders and required teamwork to address technical issues and to obtain resources to see this project to a successful completion.



*The new park in the Elm Street neighborhood of Kearny, NJ.*

## REGION 3

**MARYLAND** – The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct land use control (LUC) inspections of 107 completed Voluntary Cleanup Program properties. The inspections included site visits and a review of the land records using the Maryland State Archives' website (MDLandrec.net). The inspections identified two properties where follow-up was needed and land owners provided MDE with documentation demonstrating that they complied with the LUC requirements.

## REGION 4

**KENTUCKY** – The Kentucky Brownfields Redevelopment Program utilized Section 128(a) Response Program funding to facilitate free visioning sessions for towns that received, or are interested in applying for, EPA Brownfields grants. This unique opportunity is based on the "Vision-to-Action" approach developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The model allows for the attendees to sketch their individual visions for the future of their neighborhoods. Stock sketches of community activities, people and places including park scenes, farmers' markets and other outdoor activities are presented, which then allows participants to attach their own visions to posters, surrounding their pictures with small vignettes of other related, sketched visions. A landscape architect participates in these sessions to create a preliminary sketch for the community to approve using the visions.



*An architectural rendering from the "Vision-to-Action" session.*

## REGION 5

**MINNESOTA** – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) Program under their Section 128(a) Response Program grant performed a Phase I environmental assessment (2004) and a Phase II environmental assessment (2007) on the Tracy Lead Battery Site. The property consists of three parcels – 361 South 4th Street, 380 South 4th Street, and the former Central Livestock yard in Tracy. The Phase II environmental assessment revealed several risks to human health and the environment, including exposed battery casing chips and high concentrations of lead in the soil. MPCA requested cleanup assistance from Region 5 in the form of a time-critical removal action. In April 2008, EPA removed the lead-impacted soils. A total of 20,187 tons of lead-impacted soil were excavated and disposed off-site, and a total of 12,560 cubic yards of clean fill was backfilled into the excavations. The property was restored by replacing the excavated areas with grass and trees, as well as concrete and asphalt areas including sidewalks. While no additional redevelopment has occurred on the three properties, there is also no further immediate risk to human health and the environment.

## REGION 6

**OKLAHOMA** – The Oklahoma Corporation Commission through their shared use of the Section 128(a) Response Program grant funding with Oklahoma Department of the Environment addressed contamination on a 1.5-acre former steel manufacturing facility. The property also served as storage for horse carriages and equipment. The funding was used to remove contaminated soil left by abandoned oil wells and underground storage tanks. Additional activity at the property included breaking down the old building and recycling the materials. In September 2011, Fire Station 6 opened on the property. The station is the Oklahoma City's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building. Features of the station include individual sleeping quarters, an advanced alerting system designed to reduce firefighter's response time, a decontamination area, a built-in sprinkler system, and a countdown timer between each rig room door. Energy saving features include: salvaged brick pavers in the foyer; a hydronic heating system in the rig room; a roof that reflects heat rather than absorbs it; and energy and water saving features that could save the city \$30,000 over the next 20 years. The building used \$2.9 million from the 2000 General Obligation Bond Issue and Capital Use Project Taxes. The station primarily serves all of downtown, Bricktown, the Capitol Complex, Deep Deuce, the Medical Business District, and the Oklahoma River.

## REGION 7

**KANSAS** – To support the expansion of the Hunter Health Clinic, a network of community health centers providing medical, dental and mental health services to medically underserved patients in Wichita, the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment (KDHE) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on an adjacent property. The property, located near the Hunter Health Clinic, was a former filling station and dry cleaners. Site assessments indicated high levels of dry cleaning solvents in the ground water. KDHE informed the Clinic of potential for vapor intrusion issues in order to modify the building development plans. The property was enrolled in the Kansas Dry Cleaning Program and is scheduled for cleanup.

## REGION 8

**UTAH** – In Murray, a new \$80 million transit oriented development gave new use to 20 acres of former industrial property. The former Simpson Steel property was assessed and cleaned up under the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Cleanup Program, a Section 128(a) Response Program funding grantee. In 2008, property sampling identified several areas of metals and petroleum impacted soils, as well as slag material and sediments in Big Cottonwood Creek, which also contained elevated metals. In 2009, the property owner removed all impacted materials that exceeded site-specific cleanup levels. The redevelopment project was initiated in 2011 with the construction of a new overpass for site access and 400 apartments within 15 buildings. This first phase is expected to be completed in spring 2012 and will be followed by the construction of 268 low-income units as well as retail, restaurant and office space—all of which will be less than a five minute walk to a light rail station.



Artist rendering of the southern end of the completed redevelopment project.

**REGION 9**

ARIZONA – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ) is working with the City of Winslow and the owner of a former wood treatment facility to support redevelopment of the property. In May 2010, AZDEQ under their Section 128(a) Response Program grant conducted Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment on behalf of the City of Winslow. The assessment identified levels of arsenic above Arizona's soil remediation levels. The City of Winslow intends to work with the current landowner to clean up and redevelop the three-acre property as a vocational training facility specializing in welding. The redeveloped property will provide vital job training to the citizens of Winslow.

**REGION 10**

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE – The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe as a Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program grantee increased the tribal program's capacity to identify, investigate, inventory and prioritize potentially contaminated properties. Specific activities conducted by the tribe's Brownfields Program include the review, coordination and oversight of projects. This support may include gathering information, conducting community engagement activities, and increasing environmental education. Additionally, the tribe's Natural Resources Program staff conducts inspections of tribal properties where there is known or suspected environmental contamination. Common contaminants include a site release or unexplained stains on the ground, asbestos or lead in buildings, containers of unknown substances, or chemical odors. One property inspection included a trailer on Blackstone properties near the River Center, where site environmental contamination will be addressed and the trailer demolished. The property will be available for use as part of the Dungeness River Audubon Center's environmental education program.