

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 Sammis property is located in the coastal Town of Hancock, and consists of a single Quonset-hut style building and a historic rail line. The former railroad operations at the property left behind contamination concerns and the Quonset-hut became a target of frequent vandalism. In 2008, the Crabtree Neck Land Trust acquired the property and entered it into the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Brownfields Program. DEP used funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to perform Phase I and Phase II assessments on the property. The assessments identified containers in the Quonset-hut, a small oil-filled transformer (non-PCB), an onsite septic tank, and small areas of coal-ash associated with the old rail line. DEP used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete the cleanup and resolve public health and safety issues. The rail line is now used as a public recreational and water access trail to the rich tidal flats of Young's Bay, where locals continue the shellfish and bloodworm harvesting heritage. In addition, area Eagle Scouts have completed projects improving the trail-head parking area, the trail and the rail-bridge over Young's Bay, thereby helping to preserve this coastal treasure for future generations.

## REGION 2

**NEW YORK** – Using resources from federal, state and local programs, the Village of Greenport redeveloped a 3.2-acre waterfront parcel that was contaminated by a marina, shipyard and oyster harvesting activities. The village acquired the property after the previous owner went bankrupt. Nine petroleum underground storage tanks were removed along with hundreds of cubic yards of petroleum and arsenic contaminated soil. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight during the assessment and cleanup of the property. The redeveloped property now contains a public park, including an amphitheater, historic carousel, harbor walk, seasonal ice rink, and splash park.

## REGION 3

**WEST VIRGINIA** – The Brownfield Assistance Centers (BACs) at Marshall University and West Virginia University continue their outreach and assistance to West Virginia communities as illustrated by hosting the West Virginia Brownfields Conference held on September 8-9, 2010 in Charleston. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to assist the BACs with the conference. Approximately 215 people attended the conference, which was highlighted by

the presentation by Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito and Benedum Foundation Program Officer Mary Hunt-Lieving of \$48,000 in Benedum Foundation Program grants to four FOCUS WV projects. Keynote speaker, State Senator Brooks McCabe, encouraged audience members to use brownfields revitalization as an opportunity to prepare for future growth and development in their communities.

## REGION 4

**FLORIDA** – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to assist the City of St. Pete Beach by conducting a supplemental assessment at the former Misener Marine property. After the assessment, the city entered the property into a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement under the Florida Brownfields Program to complete assessment and cleanup activities. The city addressed petroleum and arsenic contamination on the property and transformed the former marine construction facility into a community waterfront park. In addition, the development of this park increased critically needed waterfront access and provided passive recreational opportunities to city residents. The project also expanded greenspace within the city and substantially improved stormwater treatment prior to discharge into Boca Ciega Bay.

## REGION 5

**ONEIDA TRIBE** – Oneida's Tribal Environmental Response Program (TERP) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host an Oneida Household Clean Sweep event on September 17, 2010. The TERP partnered and received additional support from the Oneida Recycling Program, Brown County, and the Oneida Environmental, Health and Safety Division staff. The TERP developed a "Handbook of Household Hazardous Chemicals and Non-Toxic Solutions" that was provided to all members and promoted the event through



*Items collected during the Oneida Household Clean Sweep event.*

its education and outreach efforts. Brown County and tribal staff collected, categorized the waste, and recycled or disposed of the waste properly. The event attracted approximately 240 enrolled Oneida Tribal members and collected:

- Scrap Metal/Appliances: 8,300 pounds
- Electronics: 17,437 pounds
- Household Hazardous Waste: 13,017 pounds
- Used Tires: 4,000 pounds
- Lamps/PCB Ballasts/CFLs: 345 pieces
- Mercury Thermometers: 12 pieces

The numbers from this effort will be used by TERP to gauge the effectiveness of the outreach and education campaign, by the Healthy Homes Program to increase awareness about and reduce household chemical hazards, by the Recycling Program to measure recycling rates, and by the Water Quality Program to increase awareness about mercury in the environment.

## REGION 6

**LOUISIANA** – The cleanup of the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance (MCRA) Headquarters was a partnership of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge, and the EPA Region 6 Brownfield Program. The goal was not only to clean up the environmental issues at the property, but to enable enhanced and expanded uses of the headquarters property. MCRA is a nonprofit organization created by the General Health System whose sole mission is the renewal of the heart of Baton Rouge—the Mid City Community. The property was a former moss and cotton gin that operated from the late 1800s until the 1920s. From the early 1930s until 1980, a series of auto dealers and auto service companies occupied the property. Environmental issues at the property included asbestos and lead paint in the building, and soil and ground water contamination from sumps and hydraulic lifts associated with the auto repair and service activities. In 2009, LDEQ provided Section 128(a) Response Program funding for cleanup and oversight. The City-Parish completed the abatement of the asbestos and lead paint and removal of the sumps, hydraulic lifts, and associated contamination by early summer 2010.

## REGION 7

**MISSOURI** – The Missouri Department of Natural Resources Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program (BVCP) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Brownfields Conference in conjunction with the Missouri Waste Control Coalition 38th Annual Environmental Conference on June 21, 2010. The Brownfields Conference provided a platform to celebrate the positive effects—economic, environmental and aesthetic—the BVCP has provided to Missouri and the continued positive effects the program will have in the future after successfully completing 500 brownfield

cleanups in Missouri. Almost 200 participants from seven states attended the conference. The attendees included city and community representatives, consultants, state and federal agency staff, and other stakeholders. The conference focused on providing essential information on the identification, remediation and redevelopment of contaminated properties in Missouri.



Attendees at Missouri's 6th Annual Brownfields Conference.

## REGION 8

**CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE** – In August 2010 EPA's Emergency Response Unit conducted a removal action to clean up asbestos released from a dilapidated administrative building in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. The Old Prosecutor Building removal was triggered by continued vandalism and arson attempts, coupled with the fact that the building is located in close proximity to several residences. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's (CRST) Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel were instrumental in the initial identification of the hazard and worked closely with EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) in the planning and execution of the removal. CRST used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide onsite coordination and support. The close coordination between tribal personnel and EPA's OSC during the removal action provided valuable insight into the cleanup process and the lessons learned will be transferable to subsequent brownfields projects conducted by CRST.



Emergency response activities at the Old Prosecutor Building.

## REGION 9

CALIFORNIA – The City of Sacramento used a Targeted Site Investigation (TSI) grant—funded with California's Section 128(a) Response Program funding—to assess a 0.96 acre property located directly south of a Salvation Army facility. The property was originally purchased in 1989 to be part of an affordable housing or transitional housing project for the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority and the Salvation Army both conducted Phase II assessments on the property; however, there were discrepancies with the results. The Phase II conducted by the Salvation Army indicated that the cleanup costs would exceed \$1 million. The TSI determined the amount of soil contamination and re-evaluated the previous cleanup estimates. Based on the prior assessments' and the TSI investigation's soil sample results, the report provided a cost estimate under \$400,000 to excavate and properly dispose of the contaminated soil. The lower cost estimate will allow the Salvation Army to relocate their entrance away from a busy corner and improve the aesthetics of the area. The remediation will also clean up a key gateway corner into the River District and Downtown Sacramento.



*View of the corner property located directly south of a Salvation Army facility.*

## REGION 10

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBE – Over the last year the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Environmental Waste Program Manager used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to hold "Brownfields' Days" in each district of the 815-square mile reservation in southeast Idaho. The program created presentations, newsletters and brochures to provide outreach and address a legacy of pesticide, lead and asbestos contamination from agriculture, industry, mining, and illegal dumping. The most visible project that was an outcome of "Brownfields' Days" is a former railroad station where the cleanup of lead and asbestos contamination in the building made it ready for re-use as a tribal veterans center. In addition, the tribe is partnering with Idaho State University on plans to transform an old hospital into an environmental education center. Some brownfields properties on the reservation have also undergone ecological restoration, and three properties are being studied as possible locations for a wind farm or a waste-to-energy plant.