

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 2

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE – Representatives from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT)—located in Akwesasne, NY—traveled to New York City in November 2011 to meet with EPA Region 2 staff to discuss its Section 128(a) funded Tribal Response Program, other environmental programs and potential new EPA grant opportunities. The SRMT program is creating a database of its brownfields inventory, developing an oversight and enforcement program and conducting public outreach. At the meeting with EPA Region 2, SRMT presented some of its work, including the demonstration of a touch-screen kiosk presentation that is being used for public outreach in various locations of the reservation. In addition, SRMT showed a map to display the brownfields and specific contamination areas—for example, areas with trash, junk cars, old drums, gas cylinders, old dumps and other environmental concerns—found on its reservation. SRMT plans to expand its program by continuing outreach efforts that include additional public meetings, radio shows and activities, such as a brownfields logo and slogan contest. A brownfields training day for the SRMT community and other groups is also being planned at the reservation.

REGION 3

Two EPA Region 3 grantees recently used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host brownfields conferences.

PENNSYLVANIA – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, hosted its annual Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference on September 27-28, 2011 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalizations Deputy Director, Gail Cooper participated in the conference. The PA Brownfield conference is the largest statewide brownfields event in Pennsylvania and this year focused on the redevelopment of smaller sites. A "Brownfield Basics" course provided new attendees with the fundamental concepts of brownfields redevelopment, while other sessions challenged the more seasoned brownfields practitioners. Sessions focused on planning and financing innovations to advance brownfields projects. The conference also included an informative field trip where attendees saw first-hand the impressive results of Altoona's downtown revitalization as well as a more traditional brownfields redevelopment, a former rail car shop in Hollidaysburg.

WEST VIRGINIA – The Sixth Annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference was held in Morgantown on September 14-15, 2011 with approximately 160 attendees. The conference brought together individuals and organizations from a broad spectrum, including community and development authorities; attorneys; banking and real estate; consulting and remediation firms; and all levels of government representing municipalities, counties, state and federal entities. The conference topics and forum showcased the value the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers (<http://www.wvbrownfields.org>) provide to West Virginia's citizens and communities through West Virginia's premiere education centers at West Virginia and Marshall Universities. The collaborative partnerships that develop through the centers continue to produce impacts that will be felt throughout the state.

REGION 4

MISSISSIPPI – In the spring of 2011, Elevance Renewable Sciences Inc.—creator of high-performance renewable specialty chemicals for use in personal care products, detergents, plastics and lubricants—acquired the former Delta Biofuels facility in Natchez with the assistance of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). Through the Mississippi Industry Incentives Financing Revolving Fund, MDA provided a \$25 million loan to Elevance. In addition, MDEQ reached a brownfield agreement with Delta Biofuels that addressed liability concerns related to a legacy of environmental conditions at the facility. MDEQ also used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to facilitate discussions between representatives of Delta Biofuels and Elevance to explain the benefits of its Brownfield Program, including liability protection and income tax credits. Elevance is converting the facility into a biorefinery and derivatives operation that will involve an investment of more than \$225 million and will create 165 full-time jobs over the next five years. Elevance has bridged renewable energy with the petrochemical industry using a core technology that received the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

REGION 5

WISCONSIN – The City of Kenosha is in the process of cleaning up and redeveloping the former 107-acre Chrysler Engine Plant property located in the heart of the city. The plant first opened for automobile production in 1902, housing Nash Motors, and has been part of Kenosha's long-standing history in auto manufacturing. The facility produced a number of famous vehicles and their parts, including Nash Ramblers, Dodge Diplomats and AMC engines used in Jeeps. After a resurgence in engine building at the plant in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the plant was a casualty of the recent recession after the Chrysler Corporation declared bankruptcy. However, after the Chrysler bankruptcy proceedings were finalized, the plant was shut down in the fall of 2010. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to work with the city to develop a plan for assessing and cleaning up the property. In October of 2011, the city and its partners signed an agreement with the property owners, allowing the property to transfer ownership to the city in the next 12-18 months. With this transfer, the city will be able to access \$10 million in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds and begin the cleanup of the property.

REGION 6

TEXAS – The City of Austin is redeveloping three former vacant properties to address affordable housing needs in the eastern part of the city. The properties were historically used as a dry cleaning operation and were subject to illegal dumping after it closed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to perform the environmental assessment and cleanup activities at the property. After the cleanup activities were completed, the properties received certificates of completion in August 2011. The City of Austin worked with the community and determined that the most appropriate future use of the properties is affordable housing for the elderly. Construction is anticipated to start at the end of 2011.

REGION 7

NEBRASKA – The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to kick off its newest public outreach effort on institutional controls (ICs) in Nebraska. Contaminated ground water plumes can be up to four miles long in this state. Often, ground water well drillers are not aware of these exceptionally long plumes or ICs related to the plumes. Thus, NDEQ is targeting this public outreach towards increasing knowledge of ICs among well drillers in the state. NDEQ gave a

presentation in January 2011 to over 100 well driller industry professionals at the Nebraska Well Drillers Association Short Course in Kearney. In addition, NDEQ partnered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) to incorporate ICs into their existing interactive mapping system. NDNR's mapping service is used by ground water well drillers for researching other existing ground water wells in the area prior to drilling a new well. These proactive outreach efforts will bring awareness to Nebraska's IC procedures and reduce the risk to human health and the environment.

REGION 8

STANDING ROCK SIOUX – The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe recently completed the cleanup of the former "Old Teachers' Quarters," originally constructed in the 1930s by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After many years of use, the property was abandoned in 1990 due to its uninhabitable condition, and in 2008 the building was destroyed by a fire leaving behind a debris pile and foundation contaminated with lead, arsenic and asbestos. Located in the center of town between an elementary school and the Missouri River, the property has remained an eyesore, a safety and health threat and an environmental risk. To address this problem, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's Response Program—a Section 128(a) Response Program grant recipient—worked with EPA to conduct a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) to characterize the contamination and develop cleanup options and cost estimates. Standing Rock was also the successful recipient of an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant used to excavate and haul the contaminated debris for disposal and recycling, bring in clean fill and revegetate. The building's cement foundation was crushed and will be reused by the Tribal Roads department. The Tribe plans to reuse the prime location for new park space and eventually new teacher housing.



Former "Old Teachers' Quarters" after the completion of cleanup activities.

REGION 9

GUAM – Guam's Harmon Loop Transition Site, in the municipality of Dededo, consisted of several acres of undeveloped land covered with vegetation. After Super Typhoon Pongsona in December of 2002, the Government of Guam set up several temporary collection stations, including the Harmon Loop Transition Site, where residents could bring white goods, construction debris and green wastes. Unfortunately, some residents discarded unauthorized wastes to the transition sites, causing potential contamination that needed to be assessed before the properties are redeveloped. Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency conducted an environmental assessment that revealed that all suspected contaminants were below the residential screening levels, and the property was cleared for development. The Departments of Parks and Recreation, along with the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, redeveloped the property into a multi-sports complex and a waterpark. Completion of the baseball fields, walking/jogging trail with exercise stations and waterpark concluded with a grand opening on December 1, 2010. Through this joint partnership of Government of Guam agencies, this redevelopment project created jobs, contributes tax revenue and promotes fitness and fun activities for the community.



The redeveloped multi-sports complex and a waterpark at the former Harmon Loop Transition site.

REGION 10

WASHINGTON –The Washington Department of Ecology used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to hold its Brownfields and Land Revitalization Conference on May 12-13, 2011 in Spokane. "Turning Liabilities into Assets in the Inland Northwest" was the first gathering of its kind in the Spokane area to focus on brownfields issues. The conference attracted community and economic development professionals; consulting firms; and local, state, tribal and federal government officials. The conference agenda reflected current areas of interest such as sustainable redevelopment, renewable energy on contaminated tribal lands and financial transaction opportunities in challenging economic times. There were over 200 participants from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. A highlight of the conference was a tour of Kendall Yards, a 78-acre, \$1 billion development which boast 1,100 residential units and 720,000 square feet of commercial and retail space, which benefited from a \$3.4 million EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan in 2004. The redeveloped old rail yard is now Spokane's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Neighborhood Development-certified community.