U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TARGETED BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT
BEECH BOTTOM PLANT & INDUSTRIAL PARK

Weirton, WV **October 2014**

SITE INFO/BACKGROUND

The former RG Steel Plant in Beech Bottom, WV is a 200 acre brownfield property with an ideal location between State Route 2 and the Ohio River. Since the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle obtained ownership of the property in November 2012, five tenants have been secured to temporarily utilize the site. However, the historic steel manufacturing operations at the site raise environmental concerns for long-term development.

Assessment of the site is essential for further redevelopment and economic revitalization for the Beech Bottom community and Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.

http://www.wvcommerce.org/app_media/developmentsite/Building%20PDF%20Brochures/Beech%20Bottom%20Plant.pdf

What is a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA)

EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program provides technical assistance to states, communities and non-profit organizations, to minimize the uncertainties of contamination on brownfield sites. EPA, at no charge to the community, will characterize a brownfield to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The assessment will be conducted by environmental consultants currently under contract with EPA. Results are provided to the community to assist them in redevelopment planning. The site must be known to be contaminated or suspected to be contaminated with hazardous substances.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on TBAs or to request a TBA:

http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bf-lr/technicalassistance.html

Information on EPA's Brownfields program and Brownfields grant information can be found at:

http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bf-lr/bfeligibility.html

DETAILS OF EPA'S SITE ACTIVITIES

EPA performed Phase I and Phase II site assessment activities. The purpose of the Phase I ESA was to evaluate the property, and to a more limited scope, surrounding properties, for the presence of recognized environmental conditions (RECs), historical RECs (HRECs), controlled RECs (CRECs), and/or de minimis conditions (as defined by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E 1527-13, Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process (ASTM Standard E 1527-13) in connection with the Site.

The Phase II investigation consisted of constructing and sampling a total of nine monitoring wells, 21 soil borings, eight surface soil, four sediment samples, three surface water samples, and one raw well water (process water) sample at the Facility.

Report/Investigation Findings

Based on the findings and conclusions of the Phase I assessment, additional investigations (Phase II) to determine if hazardous substances or petroleum products are present in the the soils, surface water, groundwater, and vapor in the subsurface of the Site. The site's groundwater appears to have been adversely impacted by bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, hexavalent chromium, and multiple inorganic analytes. The analytical results from the surface soil samples indicate that elevated concentrations of benzo(a)pyrene, elevated levels of arsenic , vanadium and lead were found at elevated concentrations. The analytical results from the subsurface soil samples indicate that elevated concentrations of inorganic analytes (arsenic and lead) and cyanide exist at the Site.. The site's surface and subsurface soils did not contain any elevated levels of VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, or CrVI (Hexavalent chromium). The following inorganic analytes were found to be elevated within the surface water at the Site; aluminum, arsenic, barium, calcium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, and selenium (the highest concentrations were in sample which was a background sample collected upstream from the facility). The surface water samples did not contain any elevated levels of VOCs, SVOCs, or PAHs. The analytical results from the sediment samples indicate that an elevated concentration of carbon disulfide and numerous SVOCs were found at elevated levels. The presence of the elevated inorganic analytes found within the background sample, would suggest that they may not be attributable to the site. The sediment samples did not contain any elevated levels of PCBs.

Reuse/Revitalization Details

It is recommended that the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle coordinate with their Land Revitalization Specilaist and WVDEP with the finding of this report to discuss how best to address the future reuse of the Facility.

Contact Us

Michael Taurino
TBA Coordinator
US EPA Region 3 Brownfields
Taurino.Michael@epa.gov
215-814-3371

Joseph Nowak
Project Officer
US EPA Region 3 Brownfields
Nowak.Joseph@epa.gov
215-814-3303

Questions and Answers

Q: What is a Brownfield?

A: Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for a TBA?

A: EPA assistance will be offered for sites where control and ownership issues are not an impediment, and there are strong commitments to clean up and redevelop the site. The site should currently be publicly owned, or will eventually be publicly owned, either directly or by a municipality through a quasi-public entity such as a redevelopment authority or industrial development corporation. A nonprofit entity (e.g., a community development corporation) may also apply for assistance as long as the nonprofit or a municipality owns the site.

Q: What kind of technical assistance is provided in a TBA?

A: Generally, a Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental site assessment. EPA can also provide analysis for risk assessment to potential contaminants and recommendations for site cleanup.