

State and Tribal Response Program Highlights

EPA Funding Provided to States and Tribes to Address Contaminated Land in their Communities

REGION 1

MAINE – Lewiston's Bates Mill was once the largest employer in Maine, with activity dating back to the mid-1850s. The enormous textile complex served as both the geographic and cultural center of downtown Lewiston, as most of its workers lived and shopped within walking distance. The gradual decline of the textile industry led to the mill's closure and abandonment in 2001. In 2011, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide assessment and cleanup activities at the 10-acre site. In 2012, Bates Mill Building No. 2 was redeveloped into the Lofts at Bates Mill, a mixed-income apartment complex that also provides office and light industrial space. The interiors and exteriors of the site's restored buildings preserve the mill's historical decor, offering large windows, exposed beams, and brick exteriors. In 2016, plans were finalized for Building No. 5; Central Maine Healthcare and the YMCA will occupy 150,000 square feet of the 350,000 square foot building. Plans include a centralized health and wellness center that weaves together the missions of both organizations and will greatly benefit the community. Redevelopment of Building No. 5 will include a 1/6 mile indoor walking track, a swimming pool, a cardio and rehab center, a medical office, and a grocery/market place.

REGION 2

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE (SRMT) – SRMT, located in Akwesasne, NY, has continued to make progress in developing its Section 128(a) Brownfields Response Program. The tribe has continued to create an online brownfields inventory, is currently developing an oversight and enforcement program, and is conducting public outreach and other program-related activities. The property inventory currently contains approximately 150 properties. The tribe developed a community involvement plan and has conducted training sessions to inform the public on how to access the program's online Public Record. In addition, SRMT staff gave a presentation on cultural restoration at the 2015 Tribal Lands and Environmental Forum in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The presentation focused on the tribe's 4.5-acre "Frogtown" brownfield site, a former open dump that is a priority for redevelopment on the reservation. The tribe conducted a Phase I assessment on the property that identified exposed damaged 55 gallon drums containing unknown substances; as well as tires, household trash, unmarked gas cylinders, old fuel tanker trucks, and junked cars. A Phase II assessment of this site is being planned.

REGION 3

DELAWARE – The 45-acre former Avon Products property, located in Newark, served as a warehouse and distribution center for Avon cosmetic products from 1958 until 2009. Since 2009, the 394,000 square foot building has been vacant. Due to several potential areas of environmental concern on the property, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct oversight of assessment activities in 2015. The results indicated that the contamination was below cleanup action levels and that no cleanup was required on the property. Beginning in 2016, a portion of the property will be developed as a liquor store and the remaining portion into mixed commercial and residential uses, including apartments, office space, retail shopping, and several restaurants.

REGION 4

KENTUCKY – A 0.25-acre property in the Highlands neighborhood of Louisville has been redeveloped into a new restaurant. The former dry cleaning facility began operations in the 1960s and closed in 2002, leaving the building vacant. The property entered the Kentucky Brownfields Redevelopment Program and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide assessment and cleanup oversight. Cleanup included the removal and proper disposal of contaminated soil. In 2015, the property was redeveloped into Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers, creating over 50 new jobs and serving stone-baked pizzas to order in an eclectic, art-filled, and family-friendly environment.



The newly constructed Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers restaurant.

REGION 5

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF ODAWA (LTBB) – “Just A Plain” Farm was a 312-acre property located just south of Mackinac City in Carp Lake, Michigan. Surrounded by state forest land and with access and water rights to the Carp Lake River, this cleared land with barns, housing, irrigation and an orchard was purchased by the LTBB in 2013 for continued use as an agricultural facility. Historical use of the land dated back to the 1930s and was primarily agricultural, with widespread applications of pesticides and fertilizers. Through the tribe’s Section 128(a) Response Program funding, multiple environmental assessments identified two open dumps consisting of several hundred pounds of plastics and a cache of pesticide containers. In July 2015, LTBB funding helped support cleanup efforts and the tribe’s response program partnered with the LTBB Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to remove the plastics and pesticide containers from the land. This project doubled as an outreach effort by involving the YCC in proper soil sampling techniques and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during cleanup operations. Today, *Ziibimijwang*, Inc. (“*land of the flowing water*” in Anishinaabemowin) is active in producing organically-grown fruits, vegetables and grains.



LTBB YCC during removal activities at the property.

REGION 6

OKLAHOMA – A former gasoline service station in Roger Mills County was redeveloped into a recreational vehicle (RV) park and campgrounds. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of an underground storage tank (UST) removal and subsequent environmental assessments. The assessments indicated no contamination concerns and the Oklahoma DEQ issued a no further action (NFA) letter for the property. After the completion of assessment activities the property served as a staging area for the County Road Maintenance Department prior to being redeveloped. In late 2015, the property and an adjacent parcel were subsequently developed into an RV park and campgrounds. The park is centrally located in an area that contains national reserves, historic markers, museums, and state parks and lakes; and provides a place to stay and enjoy the nature and history of Oklahoma while bringing economic growth to the local rural towns and areas around the park.

REGION 7

NEBRASKA – Kayton International, a Nebraska based manufacturer of farm equipment, closed its Norfolk office in 2013. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct Phase I environmental assessments on the vacant property. The results indicated that there were no contamination concerns and that the property was ready for reuse. Having the assessment report completed prior to having a prospective buyer allowed for a quick, smooth transaction and turnaround of unused assets. In 2015, the property was purchased by Petersen AG Systems, which refurbished the existing building, and leveraged eight new jobs and more than one million dollars in investments.



Grand Opening ceremony at Petersen AG Systems.

REGION 8

WYOMING – Near the Laramie River in the City of Laramie, Wyoming sits a long idle, 3-acre former yttrium plant. The property is owned by the Laramie Rivers Conservation District (LRCD) and contains surface and subsurface contamination including metals, Diesel-Range Organics (DRO), trace asbestos, and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) including Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). Because of this extensive contamination, the property was accepted into the Section 128(a) Response Program-funded Wyoming Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) and the Wyoming Brownfields Assistance (BFA) Program in February 2012. With assistance from these state programs, LRCD applied for and received a cleanup grant from EPA to proceed with targeted excavation of contaminated soils. Demolition of existing structures at the northern portion of the property took place in 2014-2015 with the aid of a Community Development Block Grant. The southern half of the property was recently purchased by the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WDOT) to facilitate installation of the Harney Street Overpass in the coming year. LRCD is currently working with the city to establish an institutional control for the northern portion of the property to ensure that area residents are protected. The partnership between Wyoming, EPA, LRCD, WDOT and the City of Laramie created an amazing opportunity for the LRCD to reuse a space that had long been an eyesore and hazard. Post-cleanup development options include construction of a new office building, an arboretum, and raised gardens to benefit the community.



Artist rendering of the planned redevelopment at the former lumber mill.

REGION 10

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE (YTT) – The YTT has overseen the restoration of contaminated properties affecting tribal resources since they started receiving Section 128(a) funding in 2008. Many of the properties in the tribe's brownfields inventory impact the Ankau Saltchucks, a rich, biologically diverse area that is a prime resource for the tribe's diet. Unusual patterns of health concerns within the community in the 1990s raised the possibility of exposure to dioxins in the Saltchucks. Elevated dioxin levels were traced to abandoned military and dump sites from the 1940s-1970s scattered throughout the peninsula. In response, YTT conducted multiple studies to better understand the nature and extent of dioxin contamination impacting the Saltchucks. The data were compiled and mapped using GIS to determine areas of contamination and identify data gaps. YTT has been working with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on the likelihood of health impacts as revealed by the data collected. The tribe also works with an environmental consulting and civil engineering firm specializing in habitat restoration, site cleanup, and waste management, ensuring that the tribe addresses important concerns today while leaving a positive legacy for its future.

REGION 9

CALIFORNIA – Since 2000, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and U.S. EPA have worked together to provide coordinated support for the environmental assessment of an abandoned former lumber mill in the City of Mt. Shasta. The former mill, which closed more than 30 years ago, was the city's largest employer and the area's main economic driver. Over the past 15 years the idea of restoring the property to productive use has gained traction and become a top priority for the city and surrounding community. In 2015, DTSC used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an environmental assessment at the property. The city's cleanup of the former mill site, which includes excavation and offsite transportation of contaminated soil, is expected to be complete by fall 2016. The property will be redeveloped into a recreational vehicle park, a hotel center, and office and residential space. In addition, a portion of the site is being considered by the city for a solar array to provide renewable energy.