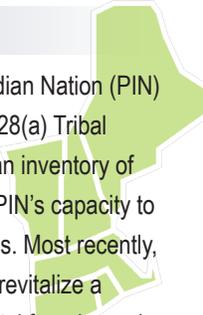


# State and Tribal Response Program Highlights

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

## REGION 1

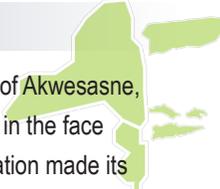


PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION – The Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN) Department of Natural Resources is using Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program funding to continue developing an inventory of potential Brownfields properties and strengthen the PIN's capacity to respond to contaminated properties within tribal lands. Most recently, the tribe is working to prepare a remediation plan to revitalize a riverfront property that was historically used as a metal foundry and machine shop. The tribe would like to develop this property into open greenspace with water access for fishing and small boats on the Penobscot River. Additionally, the tribe has completed two additional Phase I environmental assessments on properties with the intention of using the properties for agriculture including organic vegetable production. The properties are primarily undeveloped but have historically received significant urban fill. Phase II environmental assessments are currently being prepared to investigate if the urban fill has the potential to negatively impact human health, the environment, and crops grown on the properties.



Former metal foundry and machine shop property.

## REGION 2



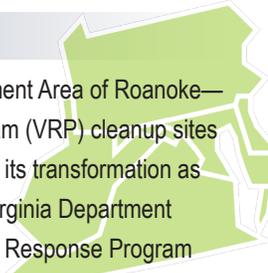
ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE – Like the Mohawks of Akwesasne, the Ramapough Indian Nation are a strong people in the face of adversity. In the fall of 2007, the Ramapough Nation made its initial visit to the St. Regis Mohawk reservation to meet with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Environment Division Brownfields Program. The Ramapough Nation land, located on the New Jersey and New York border, was contaminated by toxic paint sludge from the neighboring industrial facility. The Ramapough Nation gathered information from the SRMT's Environment Division regarding how to address contamination, health effects, cultural losses, and the struggle to overcome these obstacles. During this initial visit, the Environment Division shared information and visited with the community to talk about their experiences living next to an industrial landfill. In April 2014, the Ramapough Nation returned to the SRMT reservation to share their success story and how they fought for their land and health by working with the industrial facility to clean up the contamination. In June 2014, members of the SRMT used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to visit the Ramapough Nation to tour the successful redevelopment of the property into a large community medicine garden and to attend their "Healing of the Earth Ceremony." The collaboration between SRMT and the Ramapough Nation is a wonderful example of how tribes can stand strong against environment contamination while staying true and protecting their culture for future generations. The SRMT Brownfields Program hopes to continue its relationship with the Ramapough Nation and apply what they learned to their own brownfields properties in Akwesasne.



Ramapough Nation "Healing of the Earth Ceremony."

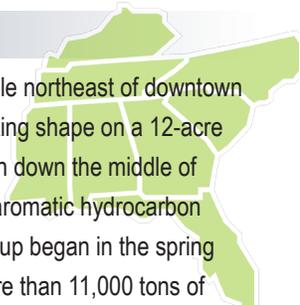
## REGION 3

VIRGINIA – The South Jefferson Redevelopment Area of Roanoke—the location of six Voluntary Response Program (VRP) cleanup sites located in a former industrial area—continues its transformation as construction continues at The Bridges. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of the cleanup activities. This 22-acre project is a mixed-use development that includes new apartments, restaurants, offices, and retail space on the site of a former mill and scrap yard. The project will complement the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine & Research Institute, Riverside office complex, the Cambria Suites hotel, as well as a site adjacent to the Walnut Street Bridge. Plans are for the project to grow to 1 million square feet of residential, retail, and office space that will connect downtown with the Roanoke River to create a destination that will include a public river walk, kayak launch, and riverfront dining. The Bridges is being developed by WVS Companies, which specializes in reusing existing buildings and amenities to create new communities.



## REGION 4

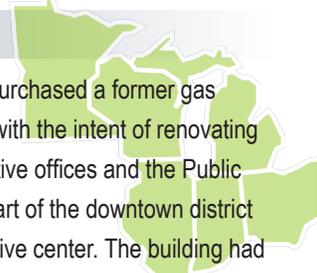
FLORIDA – Located approximately one mile northeast of downtown Orlando, the Mills Park development is taking shape on a 12-acre former lumber yard. A railroad spur that ran down the middle of the property was the source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and arsenic contaminated soils. Site cleanup began in the spring of 2012 and resulted in the removal of more than 11,000 tons of contaminated soil. While cleanup was underway, a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement (BSRA) was negotiated and signed. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight to the cleanup activities and issued an unconditional Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) in December 2012. When complete, the mixed use redevelopment will include more than 348,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, medical, general office, and residential space including a Fresh Market store that is scheduled to open by the end of 2014.



Artist rendering of the Mills Park Development.

## REGION 5

ILLINOIS – In 2004, the City of Lanark purchased a former gas station and automotive service building with the intent of renovating it and relocating the City Hall administrative offices and the Public Library. The building is located in the heart of the downtown district and was once a thriving service automotive center. The building had been sitting vacant for many years, and deterioration of the building and property, along with environmental issues, were becoming a concern. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide technical assistance and oversight of the environmental assessments and removal of an underground storage tank and contaminated soil at the property. The assessment and cleanup process took over two years, with all environmental work being completed. The Lanark Municipal Building Complex project was officially completed in January 2013, ahead of schedule. The city moved its administrative offices to the new facility in the end of January 2013, and the Library moved to the new facility the first week of April 2013. The City of Lanark is hoping the economic investment made into one of its vacant downtown buildings will encourage additional redevelopment in the downtown area. Lanark's Municipal Building Renovation project is one that was made possible due to the involvement, support, and assistance from many entities at the private, local, state and federal level.



Completed Lanark Municipal Building Complex.

## REGION 6

INTER-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (ITEC) – Cherokee Nation used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host the 19th Annual ITEC Conference on July 29 and 30, 2014 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa, Oklahoma. Approximately 190 participants from various Tribes in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arizona, and Montana attended the conference. There were also 25 vendor booths that were available to display information resources and equipment. An agenda was developed for a plenary session and 15 concurrent sessions. Each session included three to four presentations. Topics included the following:

- Tribal Recycling Projects; Pest Management Components of Integrated Solid Waste Management
- Agriculture and Conservation, including partnerships of Oklahoma with Oklahoma Tribes
- Green Initiatives and Technologies
- Climate Change
- Tribal Profiles of the Osage Nation Environmental and Natural Resources Program, Muscogee Creek Nation Environmental Services, and Tao Pueblo Division of Natural Resources
- Endangered and Threatened Species
- Food Sovereignty and Cultural Preservation
- Brownfields of Understanding Liability of all Appropriate Inquiry
- Underground Storage Tanks and the Advances in Technology and Advantages in Compliance
- Restoration of Wetlands

## REGION 7

NEBRASKA – Near Gibbon, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct assessment activities at a farm site adjacent to the Lillian Annette Rowe Bird Sanctuary. Established in 1974, the Rowe Sanctuary protects habitat for waterfowl, migrating cranes, and birds, including the endangered Interior Least Tern and threatened piping plover. The Phase I assessment provided all-appropriate inquiry for the Sanctuary, the prospective purchasers of the farm site. The newly acquired 590-acre farm site, located along the Platte River in central Nebraska, will be redeveloped into ideal

roosting habitat for over 600,000 sandhill cranes that migrate through the area each spring. The restoration will include wetland restoration, prescribed burning and grazing, and the removal of invasive species. The property will be open to the public, and the farmhouse will be retained to house sanctuary volunteers. The acquisition accompanies the 40th anniversary of the sanctuary, and brings the total area protected by the sanctuary to over 2,800 acres. The Rowe Sanctuary is also home to the Iain Nicholson Audubon Center, which hosts approximately 17,000 visitors each year to learn about local wildlife and conservation, as well as view the sandhill crane migration.



*Sandhill cranes roosting at sunset near the Platte River. Photo courtesy of Frank Gardier.*

## REGION 8

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE (SRST) – SRST recently used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide cleanup activity oversight and complete redevelopment on two former brownfields in Fort Yates, North Dakota, known as the Old Teachers' Quarters and the Old Planning Building. The Old Teachers' Quarters was abandoned in the 1990s and was later set on fire, leaving behind a debris pile and foundation contaminated with lead, arsenic, and asbestos. The EPA Region 8 Brownfields Program conducted a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) on the property and then SRST was awarded a Brownfields Cleanup Grant, which SRST used to complete cleanup activities in 2012. With the environmental hurdles cleared, the Tribal Environmental Health Department constructed its new office building on the property, successfully returning the property to productive use. Similarly, the Old Planning Building had been abandoned and was set on fire in 2011. EPA Region 8 conducted a TBA and determined extensive asbestos and

lead contamination. Due to the proximity of the debris pile to a nearby school, EPA's Emergency Response Program completed cleanup. The Tribe recently completed construction of new housing for law enforcement officers on the property.



*New law enforcement officer housing building.*

## REGION 9

HAWAII – Using Section 128(a) Response Program funding, the Hawai'i Department of Health, in collaboration with U.S. EPA Region 9 and the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR), held its 6th Brownfields Redevelopment Forum, entitled "Supporting Growth, Development and a Sustainable Hawaii," on October 17, 2013. The Hawai'i Brownfields Forum was created to encourage developers, landowners, and investors to redevelop brownfields properties by:

- Facilitating interaction and partnerships among diverse stakeholders
- Promoting greater use of programs designed to facilitate redevelopment
- Explaining regulatory requirements and the use of site assessment/cleanup tools
- Informing stakeholders of grants and other financial incentives
- Identifying obstacles and incentives to help further facilitate redevelopment

The Brownfields Forum was well attended by a broad spectrum of Hawai'i stakeholders including: owners of brownfields properties, public development agencies, private developers, public interest groups, bankers, environmental consultants, and more. The agenda included a wide range of accomplished speakers and a great deal of time was devoted to facilitating informative discussions among speakers and attendees. Feedback was very positive and the Brownfields Forum was judged to be a great success.

## REGION 10

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE (YTT) – YTT had been concerned about potential dioxin contamination in the soil, water, and subsistence resources at the Ankau Saltchucks that are located near the Alaska Native Village of Yakutat. The YTT value this historic area for its subsistence resources and because the site hosts a yearly youth camp. The dioxin concern was due to the installation of military facilities surrounding Yakutat and the Phipps Peninsula that began in 1929. In response, the U.S. Department of Defense organized military sites into concern groups to address health and safety issues from polychlorinated biphenyls, diesel, gasoline, oil, metals, asbestos, debris dumps, barrel dumps, fuel storage areas, firing ranges, septic systems, culverts, and roads. The YTT used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to investigate and sample the former military sites. In 2010, the YTT's Brownfields program petitioned the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for assistance in evaluating the sampling findings and determining the outcome in terms of public health and the impact on the community. The YTT Brownfields program invited ATSDR and the Alaska DHSS, Environmental Health Program to Yakutat to present the study's findings. The study found that the military activities do not have a connection to the high cancer rates in Yakutat. It did show that these high cancer rates are all over rural Alaska. It also found that the dioxin level in the sampled shellfish—one of YTT's subsistence resources—has a lower level than shellfish that was sampled at grocery stores in urban areas. The community members now feel it is safe to enjoy the subsistence resources from the Ankau Saltchucks – their garden.