

State and Tribal Response Program Highlights



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

REGION 1

VERMONT – The former Northeast Tool facility is located in a mixed residential, commercial and industrial area of Lyndonville. Originally developed in 1968, the Northeast Tool Division of Vermont American Corporation's facility manufactured router bits, drills, and other tools until 1993. After 10 years of vacancy, the facility was demolished in 2003. Between 1991 and 2004, a variety of environmental investigation and remediation activities were conducted on the property, including the removal of chromium impacted soil and concrete, removal of PCB impacted soil and concrete, removal of TPH impacted concrete, and removal of other petroleum contaminated soils. However, the property remained unused until 2017, when it was purchased by the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA). In late 2017, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct a Phase II environmental assessment that confirmed that there were not any remaining unaddressed contaminant concerns on the property. The property now houses an 18-acre solar array.

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY – Located in the Waterfront South neighborhood amongst commercial, industrial, and residential sites, the former Waterfront Service Station property sits at a main artery into the City of Camden. This 0.4-acre property served as a gasoline service station from the 1950s through the late 1980s, and has stood vacant ever since. In the hopes of returning the site to use, the Camden Redevelopment Agency partnered with the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to initiate

cleanup and redevelopment. In 2013, the city used funding from an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant to investigate the property, and in 2015, NJDEP used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to remove an underground storage tank and petroleum contaminated soil. The property was then transformed into a series of rain gardens under a citywide green infrastructure program called the Stormwater Management and Resource Training (SMART) initiative. The property is now home to four rain gardens, including: the tree and shrub rain garden; the wet meadow rain garden; the butterfly habitat rain garden; and the native grass rain garden. These gardens reduce stormwater from entering overburdened sewer systems, reducing flooding, sewer backups, and sewage overflows, which are major problems in the City of Camden.

REGION 3

PENNSYLVANIA – A 23.55-acre property located on the Schuylkill River in the Grays Ferry portion of Philadelphia has been redeveloped for uses that include a laboratory for the University of Pennsylvania, an innovation hub, a business incubator, and a recreational area. Beginning in 1863, the property was once one of the largest paint and chemical companies in the region, with nearly 5,000 employees. The property later became DuPont's Marshall Laboratory complex in 1917. The complex was used until 2009 to research and manufacture paints used in the automotive industry. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Land Recycling Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the cleanup of soil contamination, including metals associated with pigments and paint-making, most notably lead. In October 2014, the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) had a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pennovation Center, the first phase of development at the Pennovation Works. Key features of



Waterfront South Rain Garden.



Pennovation Center.

the center are the common creative spaces, including co-working areas, a cafe, and a venue for events and programs. It is a place where university-related research can grow into new products or services, where fledgling companies can find space on flexible terms, and where individuals can work in a creative community. The Pennovation Center has obtained many awards since its opening, including a LEED Gold rating by the U.S. Green Building Council, the Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award, and the Phoenix Award for excellence in brownfield redevelopment, which was given at the EPA National Brownfields Conference in December 2017.

REGION 4

NORTH CAROLINA – The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ’s) Brownfields Program celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and continues its work with prospective developers of brownfield properties to remove or reduce contamination to make these properties safe for reuse. The North Carolina DEQ is using Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight and address brownfields across the state. Currently, there are 460 projects with a brownfields agreement in North Carolina with another 150 agreements in development. Brownfields projects underway across the state include:

- To protect the Nikwasi Indian Mound and create greenway access along the Little Tennessee River in Franklin, the Mainspring Conservation Trust is working with the state’s Brownfields Program to redevelop the former Simpson Gas and Oil property into a recreational area.
- Legacy Union, former home of the Charlotte Observer, is a 10-acre property in Uptown Charlotte adjacent to the Bank of America Stadium and two blocks from the LYNX Blue Line light rail station. This brownfield is being developed into a 30-story office building.
- The former cotton and Bridgeport Fabrics warehouse in Davidson was transformed into the Hub at Davidson, which provides office, classroom and flex space for Davidson College faculty and staff.
- Along Water Street in Wilmington by the Cape Fear River, demolition is underway for the \$60 million River Place project, which will include 92 residential units, parking, a restaurant and retail shops.

“Not only does [addressing brownfields] make an area environmentally safe and create jobs, it protects greenspaces and historical sites, improves economic development, and aids in the development of sustainable communities across North Carolina.”

— Michael S. Regan
Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

REGION 5

WISCONSIN – Nearly 100 people attended the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Remediation and Redevelopment Program’s recent conference, Brownfields for Local Government Officials, held May 10, 2018 in Stevens Point. The Wisconsin DNR used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to host this one-day conference, which spanned a variety of land recycling issues. Throughout the day, participants heard from developers, local government colleagues, and others about the tools and strategies to capitalize on underused, or even abandoned, properties. Attendees also heard from local government leaders about devising county-wide redevelopment plans, state-assisted cost recovery mechanisms, and both state and federal brownfields assistance programs, including the Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) program (ksutab.org), a joint effort between EPA and Kansas State University. Conference presentations can be found in the program’s Training Library at: dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/TrainingLibrary.html. A similar conference will be held again in 2020.

REGION 6

INTER-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL – In May 2016, Inter-Tribal Environmental Council used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma on its 160-acre Apache Wye property. The property was an undeveloped pasture that was previously used for agricultural purposes. After the assessment revealed no concerns of contamination, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma opened the Fort Sill Apache Market in May 2018. The market has been a critical asset to the area, providing an economic driver for the community as well as much-needed food and resources.



Grand opening of the Fort Sill Apache Market.

REGION 7

NEBRASKA – A 26,000 square-foot former school building in the City of Blue Hill served as the grade school from 1923 through 2002. Since that time, it had fallen into disrepair and sat as an eyesore to the community's south side. An environmental assessment revealed asbestos-containing materials (ACM) that would need to be addressed before any redevelopment began. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight to ensure that all ACM was properly identified, removed, and disposed of. This allowed the city to safely demolish the old school building without posing any threat to the community's health. Since the demolition was completed in early 2017, the committee has been able to obtain nearly a half a million dollars for construction of a new public pool. The city was recently recognized as a Leadership Certified Community in the State of Nebraska, and their community pride can be seen in their efforts to address brownfield sites such as the former Blue Hill Elementary School building.



Recently renovated Hoopa Tribal Court House.

The redevelopment of the Tribal Court House was completed in February 2018 using Department of Justice Tribal Justice Systems Infrastructure Program funding. With the completion of this project, the Tribal Court is once again providing justice services to the Hoopa Reservation.

REGION 8

TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS – In May 2018, the Turtle Mountain Brownfields Program used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete asbestos cleanup at the Block Grant Building in Belcourt, North Dakota. Contaminated with asbestos, lead-based paint and lead in soil, the building sat vacant for many years. EPA Region 8 initially performed a Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA) at the building, which confirmed the presence of asbestos and lead. Soil cleanup and demolition are scheduled for mid-2018, after which the property will be reused as an ice skating park and warming hut. In addition, Turtle Mountain received a \$200,000 fiscal year 2018 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to clean up and revitalize the Barnsville Housing Complex, also known as L' Belcour.

REGION 10

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK – Centered in Cordova, Alaska, on Prince William Sound, the Native Village of Eyak (NVE) suffered severe damage in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Using its history as experience, the NVE Brownfields Coordinator has drafted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for the tribal response program (TRP) that addresses the need to focus on spill prevention and cleanup. The manual functions as a supplement to EPA and State of Alaska guidelines and ensures that in case of staff turn-over the TRP will not be disrupted. The writing and review process helped create best management practices as well, and NVE is sharing it with other Alaskan native villages. Recently, NVE helped bring together all local stakeholders to define clear roles in spill reporting and response. NVE has roughly 500 members, and salmon fishing has always been central to its culture and economic vitality. The new SOP will ensure that spill prevention and environmental stewardship are a key focus.

REGION 9

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE – The Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT), located in northern California, used funding from its tribal response program to address contamination during redevelopment and renovation of the Tribal Court House facility in downtown Hoopa, California. More than 60 years old, the Tribal Court House closed in 2014 due to structural, mold, asbestos and lead-based paint issues. In 2016, the Hoopa Tribal Environmental Protection Agency (TEPA) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide cleanup oversight and abate asbestos and lead-based paint in the building. The Tribal Court is a crucial entity to the TEPA Environmental Compliance Program, and having a fully functioning court is imperative in enforcing Tribal Environmental Ordinances.



Graduates of the Native Village of Eyak 24-hour Oil Response course.