Molding New Uses Out of Industrial Lands

Understanding historic contamination at the Mission Clay Site in **Pittsburg, Kansas**

Project Summary

Community: Pittsburg, Kansas

Technical Assistance: Strategic Action Plan

Former Use: Clay Goods Manufacturing

Future Use: Residential/Mixed Use

The Mid-City Renaissance District in Pittsburg, Kansas, has a long history of industrial use and subsequent production of hazardous substances, including clay mining. The vacant Mission Clay Site is the largest portion of the district. Redeveloping the Mission Clay Site could attract private investment to the area.

As part of their 2015 Brownfields Area-Wide Plan for the Mid-City area, the city of Pittsburg outlined a vision for the site that includes future residential, mixed commercial, light industrial, and renewable power generation uses at the site. The plan identified conceptual reuse alternatives for Mission Clay to transform the Renaissance District into an area that connects people, businesses, and the natural environment. However, the uncertainties posed by the potential contamination at the site has created a barrier to redevelopment.

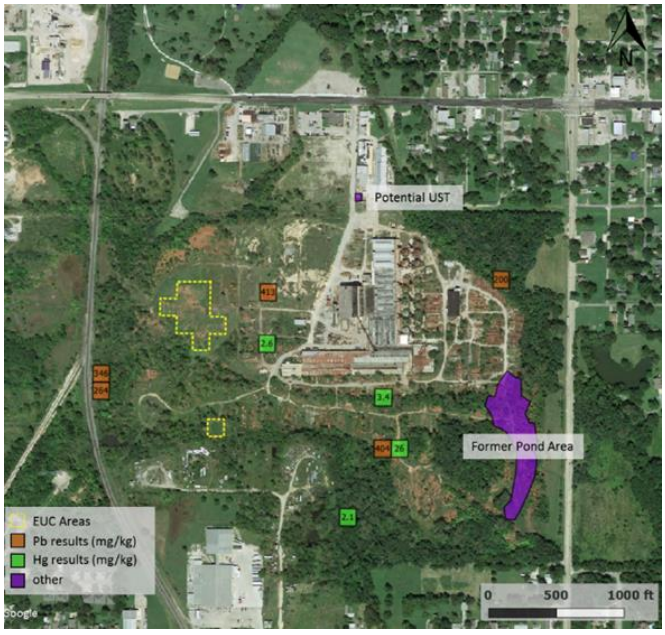
The Community's Challenge

The city wished to maintain momentum around the community's vision by implementing the Brownfields Area-Wide Plan. Yet, the city first needed help understanding the existing environmental conditions at the Mission Clay Site, including any assessment and cleanup activities that were still needed at the property.

EPA's Land Revitalization Technical Assistance

U.S. EPA's Land Revitalization Program provided contractor technical assistance to develop a background conditions report for the Mission Clay Site. The report documented the status of Mission Clay's environmental contamination and the likely cleanup necessary, based on different redevelopment scenarios. The report provided an overview of past site land uses and a matrix of soil and groundwater conditions for each parcel, identified data gaps, and recommended next steps for further investigation and remediation. This guidance will help the city prioritize their brownfields grant funds and provide interested parties with information about the environmental status of specific sections of the property.

With EPA's technical assistance, the city can reintegrate this site into the community fabric as a thriving, livable commercial and residential district that can once again contribute to the quality of life in Pittsburg.



Soil sample results from previous investigations at the Mission Clay Site.

For more information, contact Charlie Foley, EPA Region 7 Brownfields Program, at foley.charlie@epa.gov.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

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