



Kansas Brownfields News

KDHE's Brownfields News is published to share brownfields success stories throughout the State of Kansas.

EPA Announces 2006 Assessment Grant Award Recipients in Kansas

Assessment grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 to assess a site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) and up to \$200,000 to address a site contaminated by petroleum. Applicants may seek a waiver of the \$200,000 limit and request up to \$350,000 for a site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and up to \$350,000 to assess a site contaminated by petroleum. Such waivers must be based on the anticipated level of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) at a single site. Total grant fund requests should not exceed a total of \$400,000 unless such a waiver is requested. Due to budget limitations, no entity may apply for more than \$700,000 in assessment funding. The performance period for these grants is two years.

City of Pittsburg, Kansas



EPA has selected the City of Pittsburg for a \$200,000 Hazardous Substance Brownfields Assessment Grant. Hazardous Substances grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments at the former Weir City Zinc/All-Quip Property, which is contaminated by metals. Grant funds also will be used to develop cleanup and reuse plans and to support community outreach activities.

Located in southeastern Kansas, Pittsburg (population 19,243) dates back to the late 1800s, when it was a coal mining town. As mining operations shut down and related industries left the area, well-paying jobs were lost and the operations left scarred lands and waste. The region is still struggling to replace jobs, and Pittsburg's unemployment rate is higher than the state average. More than 16 percent of the population lives below the poverty level. Thousands of acres of mined land in the region remain contaminated from former mining and smelting operations. Commercial development often is restricted by contamination and the cost of cleanup. After brownfields are assessed, the city will move forward with plans to clean up and redevelop them for commercial and residential use. Brownfields redevelopment is expected to remove potential health threats, discourage development on greenspace in the city, create jobs, increase tax revenues, and improve the city's image.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

EPA has selected the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a \$200,000 Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments on properties in Wichita's 21st Street North Corridor and community outreach and coordination.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment was selected to receive a brownfields assessment

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"Laws Change; people die; the land remains."

- Abraham Lincoln

Meet the Staff

The Kansas Brownfields Program is managed by a team of professional geologists, scientists, and research analysts. In addition to brownfields program responsibilities, these staff members also receive funding from other state programs to manage contaminated "orphan" sites in Kansas. This column will introduce KDHE staff over the next several issues of Brownfield News.

Issue #5

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Pam Chaffee, Professional Geologist

Pamela Chaffee is a licensed geologist in Kansas and a project manager for KDHE/BER with responsibilities in the Orphan Sites Unit. She currently manages multiple projects in State Water Plan and Brownfields programs. Since joining KDHE/BER in February 1990, Ms. Chaffee has been a project manager in the Site Assessment and State Cooperative Units. Ms. Chaffee has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Wichita State University and a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering/Water Resources Science from The University of Kansas. Pam can be reached at (785) 296-0969.



Doug Doubek, Professional Geologist

Doug Doubek is the new Unit Chief of the Orphan Sites Unit for KDHE/BER with management responsibilities within the State Water Plan and Brownfields programs.

Prior to joining the Orphan Sites Unit in November 2006, Doug was a Professional Geologist for 16 years at the KDHE Southwest District Office in Dodge City, Kansas. Doug is a licensed geologist with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Fort Hays State University. Doug can be reached at (785) 291-3246.



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The RedevelopKS Initiative has been developed to assist Kansas communities market potential brownfields properties for sale in their communities.

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Brownfields 2006: A Revolution in Redevelopment & Revitalization



The National Brownfields Conference is now in its eleventh year and has continued to grow from its beginnings as a tabletop exercise into the most anticipated event on the redevelopment circuit. Brownfields 2006 in Boston, November 13-15, was no exception, with more registrants and exhibitors than in any previous year.

Some highlights of Brownfields 2006 were:

- Keynote presentations by EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson and Dr. Michael Porter, Professor Harvard Business School and advisor to Fortune 500 companies
- Town Meeting Plenary focused on “rebuilding a sense of place,” moderated by Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent with *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*
- The annual Phoenix Awards Ceremony celebrating excellence in brownfields redevelopment, narrated by EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock
- The Third Annual Brownfields Transaction Forum where site owners and developers mix and mingle to discuss potential deal making opportunities
- 130+ educational sessions offered for all knowledge levels and learning styles
- Mobile workshops and walking tours showcasing exceptional redevelopment projects in the greater Boston metro region
- Special training on relevant brownfields topics ranging from a “101” level introductory workshop to a green building design symposium to a sophisticated training on AAI standards and guidelines
- The largest exhibit hall and trade show on the revitalization circuit highlighting industry leaders in remediation, design, development, financing/insurance, government programs, academia, and nonprofit services

This year KDHE offered two scholarships for individuals to attend the 2006 Brownfields Conference. This year's

scholarship recipients were Herb Llwellyn, with the City of El Dorado, Kansas as well as Pat Petty representing the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. For more information on the 2006 National Brownfields Conference or if you are interested in attending the 2008 National Brownfields Conference contact Whitney Rawls or Doug Doubek at (785) 296-5519.

KDHE receives the Brownfields Star Performer Award at the 2006 National Brownfields Conference



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment received recognition from EPA Region 7 for its work at the 91st and Marshall BTA Site in Johnson County, Kansas during the 2006 National Brownfields Conference.

In March 2004, WaterOne (the Johnson County Water District) applied to have the Kansas Department of Health and Environment conduct a Brownfields Targeted Assessment (BTA) located at 91st & Marshall in Lenexa, Kansas. KDHE conducted the BTA to evaluate potential soil and ground water impacts associated with historical land use and alleviate any uncertainties associated with environmental contamination prior to redevelopment. The property had been the location a water tower that had recently been demolished. The water district was concerned that sand blasting of the water tower had left lead impacts in surficial soil at the property.

Based on results from the BTA, exposure risk associated with the subject property appeared to be limited. On April 6, 2005 KDHE's Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Program (VCPRP) initiated an excavation of the impacted soil. Approximately 160 cubic yards of lead impacted soil was removed from the site. Residential redevelopment is planned for this area.

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grant on behalf of Wichita (population 344,284) located in south central Kansas. The state will help assess brownfields in a project area that includes a significant number of Wichita's older industrial sites, including a refinery. Previous inventories have identified over 100 parcels in the project area. The aircraft manufacturing sector was Wichita's economic engine until 1998 when manufacturing dramatically slowed. Between 2001 and 2003, over 14,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the Wichita area, and in one year alone, the city's unemployment rate rose 54 percent. In 2000, the median family income was 31 percent less than other Wichita areas. Minorities, predominantly Hispanics, represent 59 percent of the population in the project area. Exiting businesses have left behind vacant and underused properties. Although environmental conditions on many sites are unknown, trichloroethene, vinyl chloride, carbon tetrachloride, benzene, and other volatile organic compounds are known to be present on many sites. After existing contamination is addressed, these sites will be reused for light industry, a transportation hub, and open space that supports local cultural activities. Brownfields redevelopment will remove environmental hazards, promote smart growth, create greenspace, generate new jobs, and help retain population.

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Interested in Applying for Funding? Find more information at http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pg/fy06_arc_final.pdf.

For more information on the Kansas Brownfields Program contact:

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