

## **Bureau of Environmental Remediation Staff Attend Groundbreaking Ceremonies for a New Development in Kansas City to Create 2,000 Jobs**



*Rick Bean, BER, (third from right) represents KDHE during the groundbreaking ceremonies.*

Rick Bean and Chris Carey, Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER) attended a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate redevelopment of an 80-acre brownfields property in the Fairfax District in Kansas City. The property was the location of a former General Motors facility and is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and hydrocarbons. After General Motors filed for bankruptcy in 2009, the property was transferred to the RACER Trust for remediation. KDHE BER has worked closely with the RACER TRUST (holders of the property)

and NorthPoint Development Company to coordinate remediation efforts with development of the property. The property, now called the Central Industrial Park (CIP), will accommodate three to eight modern manufacturing businesses and create up to 2,000 new jobs in the Kansas City area.

Speakers for both the Wyandotte Economic Development Council and the RACER Trust thanked KDHE for their assistance and leadership to move the project forward. Greg Kindle, representing the Council stated, “This sort of successful collaborative effort isn’t just an economic development boon for Fairfax. It’s also an inspiring case study.” Mark Holland, Mayor and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas indicated, “This project is a symbol to the rest of the metro area and the nation that this is what you can do, even on a brownfield. This partnership shows what we can do by turning a brownfield site into 2,000 jobs.” According to Unified Government officials, this project will be the first development in Fairfax in more than 25 years. This property has been vacant and unproductive for over 20 years partially because of the environmental contamination issues. Inergy, a gas tank manufacturer will be the first tenant of the CIP. BER, RACER and NorthPoint are working in a cooperative partnership to cleanup a major hydrocarbon source of contamination during the construction of the Inergy facility. It is anticipated that approximately 11,400 tons of contaminated soil will be removed from the area.