

Stephenson County Brownfields Program

FUNDING FACTS

In FY 2006, the EPA received over **650** Brownfields Proposals

EPA funded only **292** of the 650 Proposals, less than 45%

Region 5 Submitted **197** Proposals for Funding

EPA Funded only **84** of the 197 Region 5 Proposals

REGION 5 STATES:

Illinois	Minnesota
Indiana	Ohio
Michigan	Wisconsin



If you have any information regarding possible Brownfields or potential environmentally contaminated sites within Stephenson County, please contact County Board Chairman John Blum or Joel Zirkle of Fehr-Graham & Associates. Thank you!

Site Selection Process Complete!

Stephenson County was awarded two Brownfields Assessment Grants in the summer of 2005. The County then formed a BRAC, or Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee, to assist in planning the long and short-term strategic goals of the County's Brownfields redevelopment. The BRAC's initial duties included designating and prioritizing the areas of contamination that have been identified as potential Brownfields. Stephenson County compiled a list of 82 potential Brownfields sites. The BRAC held a series of meetings to establish ranking criteria to shorten the list to 12-14 sites. The BRAC used specific criteria such as rede-

velopment potential, the establishment of TIF districts or Enterprise Zones in the site area, and if the site was located within a floodplain, to rank the sites. After the BRAC members ranked the sites, the final list of potential sites was determined by a weighted average. The following 13 sites have been selected for assessment:

1. Railroad Depot Project, Main Street Lena
2. Hank's Town Pump, 316 N. Main Street Pearl City
3. Former Cheese Factory, Highway 73 Pearl City
4. Maintenance Hanger, 255 E. Airport Rd Freeport
5. Former A&B Auto Salvage, IL Route 75 Freeport
6. Former Filling Station, 437 S. Adams Freeport
7. Former Mortuary, 431 S. Adams Freeport
8. AFS Bioaffinity, 316 E. Jackson Freeport
9. Freeport Taxi, 320 E. Jackson Freeport
10. Halbin & Sons, 327 E. Spring St. Freeport
11. Former Lazarus Property, Spring Street Freeport
12. Midwest Machine, 310 E. Jackson Freeport
13. Stilsons Auto Body, 201 S. Adams Freeport

These 13 sites will undergo Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and/or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. The schedule for each site will be based on the most current redevelopment timeline. In some cases, private property transactions may change the assessment plans.

Brownfields Funding Extremely Competitive

With the nation growing more aware of the impact of environmental issues and the vital role that they play in the nation's strategic planning, it is no surprise that the Brownfields Grant Program is ex-

tremely competitive. For example, in Fiscal Year 2006 alone, EPA received over 650 proposals nationwide. Only 292 of those proposals were funded, totaling over \$69M in grant awards. Region 5, the Re-

gion that includes the State of Illinois, submitted 197 proposals to the EPA in Fiscal Year 2006. 84 Region 5 proposals were funded, 2 of which were Stephenson County's, totaling \$29.6M in grant funds.

Stephenson County Brownfields Program

Brownfields Clean-up Grants

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has three grant opportunities available for all eligible entities. The three Brownfields grant components are Brownfields Assessment Grants, a Revolving Loan Fund, and Brownfields Clean-up Grants. Brownfields Clean-up Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to carry out clean-up activities at established Brownfields sites. The applicant may apply for up to a maximum

of \$200,000 per site. The funds may be used to address those sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Brownfields Clean-up Grants require a 20% cost-share. The cost-share may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services. The cost-share must be for eligible and allowable costs funded by the grant. In order to be eligible to apply for a

Brownfields Clean-up Grant, the applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding at the time of application, or demonstrate the ability to acquire the title. The performance period for a Brownfields Clean-up Grant is two years. Stephenson County intends to pursue further assessment funds and/or clean-up funds. Clean-up funds will be available for up to 5 selected sites.

Brownfields Success Stories

Revolving Loan Fund Program Success Story Little Falls, MN



The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) received a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund from the EPA in 1999. In December of 2002, the PVPC granted a \$220,000 loan to the City of Chester, Massachusetts. The loan was utilized to finance a clean-up at the 14-acre Chester Wood-waste Landfill site (pictured left). The redevelopment of this site will facilitate the construction of the Chester Regional Elementary School and associated athletic fields which will be built adjacent to the landfill. The cleanup was designed to eliminate the potential public health threats associated with the existing contamination. The new school held their first classes in January of 2004.

Palatine, Illinois Success Story

The Village of Palatine, Illinois converted vacant Brownfields property into condominiums. The project site originally held a gasoline/service station, a single family home, and a dry cleaners shop. The site is now the home of 43 condo units. The key to this project's success was the designation of a redevelopment and remediation team early in the process.

Assessment Grant Program Success Story Detroit, MI

