

Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda

PROGRESS REPORT
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Executive Summary

Since the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda* was announced in November 2002, more than 20 federal agencies dedicated to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment have committed their resources to help revitalize communities throughout the nation. The *Action Agenda* is a compilation of commitments, new initiatives, events, and activities that the participating federal agencies committed to undertake in partnership to help communities deal with brownfields and associated problems. While the process of cleaning up and reusing brownfields is complex, the positive benefits to reinvigorated urban and rural communities are numerous and substantial.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to lead the Brownfields Federal Partnership effort by tracking the fulfillment of the original commitments and by highlighting the progress that has been made over the past two years. Of more than 100 commitments outlined in the *Action Agenda*, more than 75 percent have been or are in the process of being fulfilled. Among the highlights:

- EPA awarded approximately \$150 million in brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund, and job training grants to communities nationwide and \$100 million to states and tribes in Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004;
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) selected and implemented the first three Portfields Pilots at New Bedford (MA), Tampa (FL), and Bellingham (WA). These pilots are part of a NOAA-led federal interagency effort that focuses on the redevelopment of brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities;
- The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) convened a multi-agency Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group that selected and confirmed six typical abandoned mine brownfields located throughout the country to serve as demonstration projects; and
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) nearly doubled the number of Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) applications by increasing their outreach and marketing efforts. In Fiscal Year 2003, HUD's support amounted to \$22.4 million in grants and \$87.8 million in Section 108 loans for redevelopment.

This following report details the substantial progress that the federal partners have made over the past two years. For more information about this *Brownfields Federal Partnership Progress Report*, please contact Tony Raia of EPA's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment at 202-566-2758 (raia.anthony@epa.gov).

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Introduction

Communities today face multiple challenges, including environmental degradation, unemployment, deteriorating infrastructure and housing, and crime. Previous centers of economic growth have been lost to urban sprawl and the lack of a skilled labor pool. At the center of these issues are brownfields, which are defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” Many brownfields properties were once thriving factories or industrial centers—sources of economic vitality, jobs, and community pride. Now however, these neighborhood properties are sources of potential health hazards and indicators of urban blight. With hundreds of thousands of brownfields in this country, nearly every community in the nation is affected. While the process of cleaning up and reusing these properties is complex, the positive benefits to reinvigorated urban and rural communities are numerous and substantial.

Spurred on by the Bush Administration’s commitment to brownfields and the passage of the new brownfields law in January 2002, EPA and its partnering agencies renewed their commitment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The result was the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda*, published in November 2002, which focused the efforts of over 20 federal agencies in support of brownfields redevelopment in communities throughout the United States. The *Action Agenda* is a compilation of commitments, new initiatives, events, and activities that the participating federal agencies committed to undertake in partnership to help communities deal with brownfields and associated problems. *Action Agenda* commitments ranged from making funding and technical assistance to brownfields communities a budget priority, to changing policies to facilitate brownfields redevelopment, to launching a concerted effort to share program information with respective stakeholders, such as linking web sites.

EPA continues to lead this effort by tracking the fulfillment of these commitments and by highlighting the progress that has been made. Over the past two years, the federal partners have made great strides toward fulfilling the commitments outlined in the *Action Agenda*. Successes range from the initiation of a Portfields Initiative to help clean up and redevelop brownfields near harbors and ports, to the infusion of \$200 million in grant funds for brownfields assessment and cleanup, to holding workshops and creating websites to spread the word about brownfields redevelopment. Communities across the country have benefitted from the brownfields-specific initiatives, events, funding opportunities, and activities undertaken as a result of this innovative federal partnership. This publication highlights the progress achieved by the federal partners to date. For more information on the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda*, please contact Tony Raia of EPA’s Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment at 202-566-2758 (raia.anthony@epa.gov). The complete *Federal Partnership Action Agenda* is available on EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pdf/fedparaa.pdf>.

Federal Partner Progress Reports

Appalachian Regional Commission

Background

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) advocates for and partners with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. ARC is a unique partnership composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a presidential appointee representing the federal government. Local participation is provided through multi-county development districts. ARC has partnered with the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) for the past two years to conduct regional workshops in Appalachia that encourage brownfields redevelopment. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the two agencies coordinate their policies and activities in support of brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. For more information about ARC's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit ARC's website at www.arc.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to reaffirm EPA/ARC MOU commitments, ARC has:

- Continued its participation in the Brownfields Federal Partnership, and is particularly active in the Mine-Scarred Lands (MSL) Brownfields Working Group. ARC is the lead federal agency for the MSL demonstration project in Lee County, Virginia.

In support of its commitment to encourage ARC's state partners to use their Area Development funds for projects that create and retain jobs in brownfields redevelopment areas, ARC has:

- Continued to encourage states and local development districts to support brownfields redevelopment activity, both with and without ARC resources. ARC typically awards a small number of grants each year for economic development projects related to brownfields sites.

In support of its commitment to explore potential contracts with NALGEP, ARC has:

- Sponsored six regional brownfields workshops between 2001 and 2003 in conjunction with NALGEP. These sessions introduced brownfields issues, reviewed case studies and lessons learned from recent projects, outlined state and federal funding resources, and addressed specific challenges to brownfield activities in Appalachia. More than 550 people attended these workshops, which were targeted to local governments, economic development professionals, and professional engineers.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Background

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is to support the production of agriculture; ensure a safe, affordable, nutritious, and accessible food supply; care for agricultural, forest, and range lands; support the sound development of rural communities; provide farm and rural residents with economic opportunities; expand global markets to include agricultural and forest products and services; and work to reduce hunger in America and throughout the world. Some USDA field offices work with brownfields pilots, Empowerment Zones (EZs), and Enterprise Communities (ECs) by providing educational programs and training for brownfields landscaping projects (such as Master Gardeners, pesticide applicators, and youth development workshops). USDA also provides technical support to communities that include greenways and other land conservation projects. Some urban Showcase Communities monitor the success of USDA projects. Rural communities and mine-scarred lands near or adjacent to our National Forests also can take advantage of existing USDA programs. For more information about USDA's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit USDA's website at www.usda.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to work with EPA and other federal partners to address rural brownfields and those on mine-scarred lands, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service has:

- Taken an active role in providing support to the mine-scarred lands pilots;
- Helped rural communities by providing technical assistance to grant writers for proposals that address brownfields on mine-scarred lands;
- Disseminated information on brownfields to state and county contacts through the Resource Conservation and Development program; and
- Arranged to participate in the mine-scarred lands and rural development sessions at the *Brownfields 2004* conference in St. Louis.

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

Background

The purpose of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to generate new jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas of the United States. EDA supports multiagency, sector-based brownfields redevelopment efforts that are consistent with the bureau's mission, focus, investment policy guidelines, and statutory authorities. Most of EDA's brownfields projects fall under the Public Works Development Facilities Program and the Economic Adjustment Program. EDA is interested in supporting interagency efforts to revitalize brownfields that enhance regional economic competitiveness and support market-driven cluster development strategies. For more information about EDA's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit EDA's website at www.osec.doc.gov/eda/.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to specifically identify brownfields redevelopment in its annual Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA), EDA has:

- Identified brownfields redevelopment as an example of the type of investments EDA is interested in within the Public Works program of EDA's annual NOFA and plans to continue this focus in its FY 2004 investment solicitation;
- Invested approximately \$29.1 million in 28 brownfields revitalization projects in 2003; and
- Invested over \$250 million in more than 250 brownfields projects over the last five years.

In support of its commitment to support community and faith-based brownfields redevelopment strategies, EDA has:

- Begun investing in brownfields redevelopment efforts that support community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in areas of chronic economic distress; and
- Invested \$1.2 million to support the development of the Northyards Business Park in the federally designated Atlanta, Georgia, Empowerment Zone. Antioch Urban Ministries, a partner in the consortium that is receiving EDA financial assistance, will provide job access, adult training, and child-care support services in the project area.

In support of its commitment to maintain a National Brownfields Coordinator position in its headquarters office, EDA has:

- Maintained a National Brownfields Coordinator position at headquarters to coordinate brownfields redevelopment activities across EDA's six regional offices, as well as with EPA headquarters and regional staff, and other public and private entities engaged in brownfields revitalization activities. The National Brownfields Coordinator position has enhanced the stature of brownfields within EDA by more closely linking EDA's brownfields responsibilities to other cross-cutting policy responsibilities.

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to continue to support both community efforts to use eco-industrial development models to facilitate local brownfields redevelopment and multi-agency efforts to support eco-industrial development, EDA has:

- Continued to consider eco-industrial development proposals in the context of brownfields redevelopment investments and has begun discussing collaborative models to facilitate joint support of eco-industrial development with EPA. EDA and EPA are exploring a partnership on a project to demonstrate eco-industrial development brownfields revitalization.

In support of its commitment to focus on sector-specific development as it relates to brownfields, EDA has:

- Supported and actively participated in the NOAA-led Portfields Initiative, which revitalizes brownfields in and around ports, harbors, and marine transportation hubs throughout the country. EDA supports other sector-based brownfields revitalization efforts in the context of its regional cluster-based economic development strategies program.

In support of its commitment to support implementation of the objectives in the signed MOU that links brownfields assessment and cleanup activities with economic development, EDA has:

- Managed a substantial and growing brownfields investment portfolio that has increased to a quarter-billion dollars in the last five years;
- Maintained a National Brownfields Coordinator at headquarters;
- Hosted a national satellite telecast entitled “Brownfields: Market-Based Solutions for Rehabilitation” in March 2004; and
- Held a high-profile session on brownfields entitled “Brownfields: Unlocking Economic Opportunity” at EDA’s national economic development conference in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Background

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is tasked with describing and predicting changes in the earth's environment and with facilitating the conservation and management of the nation's coastal and marine resources. As part of this effort, NOAA participates in the Brownfields Federal Partnership, focusing on the redevelopment of coastal brownfields properties and the protection and restoration of coastal resources. NOAA participates on both the Steering Committee and Interagency Working Group and plays a role in three phases of the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda*. NOAA assists in 1) identifying, evaluating, and assessing brownfields in coastal areas; 2) providing funding to coastal states for brownfields redevelopment as part of waterfront revitalization efforts; and 3) providing technical assistance to state and local governments to give coastal decisionmakers resources to facilitate the redevelopment of brownfields and the documentation of successful brownfields waterfront revitalization approaches. For more information about NOAA's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit NOAA's website at www.noaa.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to lead an interagency Portfields project that will focus on the redevelopment and reuse of idled or abandoned lands in and around ports, harbors, and marine transportation hubs, NOAA has:

- Led the implementation of an interagency Portfields initiative that focuses on the redevelopment of brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities. The Portfields federal partners selected the Ports of Bellingham, Washington; Tampa, Florida; and New Bedford, Massachusetts, as Portfields demonstration pilot ports;
- Facilitated Portfields kick-off meetings in each of the pilot ports in the spring of 2004. More than 100 federal, state, and local officials attended the meetings, which were designed to build knowledge of the port's goals and needs, and begin to document federal commitments for Portfields projects; and
- Provided \$90,000 in FY 2004 to support the implementation of Portfields projects in the pilot ports. This money will serve as "seed" money to leverage additional finance and technical assistance. Portfields is already leveraging resources and showing on-the-ground results. For example, New Bedford recently received \$5 million from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to conduct navigational dredging in coordination with EPA's Superfund cleanup of New Bedford Harbor. Private sector users are contributing \$200,000 to this effort.

In support of its commitment to sign and implement a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EPA that will increase coordination to assess, clean up, and redevelop brownfields in coastal and waterfront areas, NOAA has:

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Signed an MOU with EPA on January 14, 2003. The MOU establishes a general working agreement between NOAA and EPA to coordinate their policies and activities in support of brownfields assessment and cleanup, community revitalization, and environmental protection efforts. NOAA Deputy Administrator Dr. James Mahoney and Marianne Horinko, the former EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, were present to sign the agreement during a ceremony held in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Through the MOU, NOAA and EPA agree to work together to address the obstacles and opportunities relating to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment in distressed coastal communities. Building on the current working relationship between EPA and NOAA, this MOU updates and renews the partnership established between the two agencies in 1997, with the objective of further enhancing interagency cooperation and collaboration in keeping with the respective agencies' objectives.

In support of its commitment to provide funding to coastal states for brownfields redevelopment as part of waterfront revitalization efforts, NOAA has:

- Continued to partner with state coastal zone management programs to support community-based waterfront revitalization efforts. For example, NOAA, in partnership with the New York Department of State, provided \$200,000 of Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funding for development of the Glen Cove Creek Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The city undertook a comprehensive planning process, engaging the public, property owners, and developers to build a common vision and support for reuse of 214 acres of waterfront property along Glen Cove Creek. NOAA provided \$120,000 in CZMA funding for site-specific strategies for contaminated sites along Glen Cove Creek, as well as planning for the waterfront esplanade and the restoration of Mill Pond. In addition, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration has worked with Glen Cove on coastal habitat restoration planning and implementation. Between 1995-2003, NOAA provided \$70,000 to sponsor annual "Commitment to Action" workshops that brought together federal, state, and local partners to focus support for implementing the Glen Cove Creek Revitalization Plan. NOAA considered these interagency workshops as a logical next step for building support for implementation of the waterfront master plan. The "Commitment to Action" workshops also allowed the city to: articulate its vision for a revitalized waterfront; understand the role and jurisdiction of all the various players; get specific commitments from participating agencies; and establish a long-term partnership with the city and federal, state, and local agencies. While Glen Cove's waterfront revitalization initiative is still a work in progress, the community has leveraged over \$40 million in public and private funding.

In support of its commitment to provide technical assistance to state and local governments to give coastal decisionmakers resources to facilitate the redevelopment of brownfields, NOAA has:

- Continued to work with the Metlakatla Indian Community and federal partners to evaluate the risk of contamination to fish and shellfish; developed a study plan for the Metlakatla Indian Community; and led the effort to collect samples under the Brownfields Federal Partnership. The community assisted with the

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Progress to Date (contd.)

study design, and local residents helped collect, label, and package the samples for shipping. Samples were collected from locations where community members practice subsistence and commercial fishing. The tissue sampling was completed and analyzed in 2003, and the data was given to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for use in a Health Consultation. Both the final data report and the final Health Consultation were completed in 2004. Representatives from NOAA and ATSDR traveled to Metlakatla in March 2004 to brief community members and the Tribal Council on the results of the study. ATSDR concluded that although some contaminants were measured in fish tissue, the levels were too low to cause harmful health effects, and that it is safe to eat locally collected fish and shellfish. ATSDR further concluded that it is safe for the community to harvest fish and shellfish for commercial sale.

In support of its commitment to document successful brownfields waterfront revitalization approaches, NOAA has:

- Launched an interagency Portfields initiative that focuses on the redevelopment of brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on the development of environmentally sound port facilities. The initiative will provide targeted resources to assist and expedite the planning and implementation of brownfields cleanup and reuse. NOAA created a Portfields website to provide periodic progress reports on specific projects in each of the pilots, available at <http://www.brownfields.noaa.gov/htmls/portfields/portfields.html>. The website also highlights successes in each port, and will document best practices and lessons learned. In addition, NOAA has teamed up with EPA to produce a year one report on the Portfields Initiative.

In support of its commitment to provide a Brownfields Showcase Community Coordinator to work in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to help implement their brownfields initiative, NOAA has:

- Continued to provide a fulltime employee to the City of New Bedford in FY 2004. The NOAA coordinator: 1) serves as a liaison between the city, NOAA programs, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts programs, and the family of federal programs with resources and expertise in brownfields assessment, cleanup, reuse planning, and redevelopment; 2) serves as the city's liaison to the federal partners; 3) provides GIS support for the city's brownfields and Portfields coordination efforts; and 4) directly assists the city in identifying brownfields and Portfields project needs and associated financial resources, and helps secure those resources through grant proposals and other commitments.

U.S. Department of Defense

Background

The U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) primary economic readjustment projects are the Defense Economic Adjustment program and the military base realignment and closure (BRAC) program. These programs govern DoD's efforts to close surplus military facilities, return them to local communities, and assist these communities with site remediation and redevelopment. DoD is included in the Brownfields Federal Partnership primarily in an advisory capacity, lending its economic readjustment experience to the development and evolution of EPA's Brownfields Economic Readjustment Initiative. For more information about DoD's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit DoD's website at www.dod.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to work with EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to clean up and redevelop realigned DoD bases and return them to productive use, DoD has:

- Completed four rounds of BRACs over the last 20 years and anticipates embarking on a fifth round in 2005. As just one example, at the Stockton, California, naval depot, quick cleanup has converted contaminated surplus land into a property that is now valued at half a billion dollars. This constitutes a boon for the environment and the economy of the community, and helps the military focus on economies of scale;
- Pursued legislation to help expedite negotiations with private landowners to get cleanups started; and
- Begun developing tools for enforcing use restrictions on brownfields and worked out appropriate land use controls with EPA.

In support of its commitment to long-term stewardship and to develop tools for enforcing use restrictions on brownfields, DoD has:

- Worked with conservation associations to clean up sites that are subsequently transferred to fish and wildlife management. With new statutory authority, DoD is addressing conservation easement areas. Now, military installations can work with local communities to purchase easements or land held by third parties to help with local conservation efforts, especially since these lands have become magnets for endangered species.

In support of its commitment to link pertinent DoD websites to EPA's brownfields website, DoD has:

- Begun the process of linking its websites to EPA's brownfields website.

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides comprehensive planning, design, construction, engineering management, and technical support to the Army and to the nation. Unlike most other agencies that comprise the federal brownfields partnership, USACE supports communities by way of specific, Congressionally authorized projects or through water resource-related reimbursable (“Support for Others”) engineering activities. In addition, USACE responds to engineering-related brownfields questions and project inquiries from any community within the United States and its territories. For major water resource-related endeavors, USACE will guide communities to the appropriate Congressional contacts for authorization and appropriation support. For more information about USACE’s brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit USACE’s website at www.usace.army.mil.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to partner with EPA to establish eight pilots under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addressing restoration of degraded urban rivers, USACE has:

- Entered into a MOU with EPA in July 2002 to address water quality issues, economic revitalization, and the public use and enjoyment of urban rivers. The two agencies designated eight demonstration pilot projects that will coordinate the planning and implementation of urban river cleanup and restoration. The eight rivers selected are the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia and Maryland, the Blackstone-Woonasquatucket Rivers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the Elizabeth River in Virginia, the Tres Rios area in Arizona, the Passaic River in New Jersey, the Gowanus Canal and Bay in New York, Fourche Creek in Arkansas, and City Creek in Utah. These rivers are contaminated by a variety of pollutants and are physically and ecologically degraded as a result of development activities. The eight projects involve coordinated remedial, water quality, environmental restoration, and waterways maintenance activities; and
- Begun planning for the renewal of the MOU between USACE and EPA.

In support of its commitments to increase the use of collaborative approaches to water resource problems and share analytical tools and methods that facilitate achieving sustainable development at brownfield sites, USACE has:

- Begun examining the potential benefits of spreading dredged material on mine-scarred lands to prevent migration of contaminants from the mines and provide soils for ecological restoration efforts; and
- Partnered with EPA, the State of Massachusetts, and the City of New Bedford to streamline the review of navigational dredging and to include that dredging in ongoing Superfund remedies as part of the New Bedford Portfields Pilot.

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to use existing authorities to promote comprehensive and integrated regional water resource plans that balance economic, environmental, and social goals, USACE has:

- Continued to explore ways to integrate its authorities into the complex challenges that brownfield communities are facing.

In support of its commitment to share tools and methods that facilitate achieving sustainable development at brownfields, USACE has:

- Continued to provide several Project Managers amounting to over fourteen thousand staff hours per year to EPA headquarters and to EPA Regions 9, 7, 6, 4, 3 and 2 on a reimbursable basis. The sharing of USACE members with EPA's brownfield program is producing a number of benefits, not the least of which has been a stronger relationship between the two agencies, the exchange of information about best business practices, and the leveraging of EPA efforts through USACE.

U.S. Department of Energy

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for developing and implementing the Federal Government's national energy strategy and is charged with accelerating cleanup efforts and providing long-term stewardship at over 100 DOE sites across the country. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) supports the Brownfields Federal Partnership by providing technical assistance in the field of energy use and environmental remediation, sharing lessons learned about cleanup and long-term stewardship efforts, and funding relevant research and development projects. DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) contributes to the partnership by studying, developing, and sharing information as it relates to remediation methodologies and technologies of high-level contamination. DOE's new Office of Legacy Management (LM) provides similar support at the DOE's own sites. For more information about DOE's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit DOE's website at www.energy.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitments to link the Administration's energy policy with brownfields opportunities, promote the construction of energy-efficient buildings that emphasize renewable energy sources, and develop regional relationships with federal and state partners, DOE has:

- Awarded the City of Brockton, Massachusetts, a grant to explore the feasibility of developing a brownfield into a "brightfield," and has since secured additional funding from the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation;
- Awarded a grant to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to support the construction of a solar powered bed and breakfast on an urban brownfield site in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as a part of an overall sustainable neighborhood redevelopment plan. The bed and breakfast will showcase the use of photovoltaics in supplying renewable energy from panels integrated into the roof and will contain other "green" sustainable features such as recycled building materials (shingles, porches, railings), low VOC paints, "green" flooring (bamboo, linoleum, cork), certified wood, ENERGY STAR® appliances, etc.;
- Assisted its *Rebuild America* partner, Northampton County, Virginia, with the development of "Sustainable Technology Park," which is the first eco-industrial park in the nation. The U.S. subsidiary of a European wind energy company is locating their U.S. headquarters there and plans to build an 8-megawatt wind farm on brownfield sites adjacent to Cape Charles Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. The wind farm will produce enough power for about 3,000 homes, more electricity than used by the entire county. Additional wind farms are planned at other brownfields in the county, with a goal of generating 50 megawatts of power from wind within the next five years;
- Partnered with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to create the Virginia Alliance for Solar Energy (VASE), which fosters solar projects in the Mid-Atlantic region. Together with the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, VASE, and British Petroleum, the partners are developing the largest solar-energy field on the East Coast in Paulsboro, New Jersey. This 300-kW complex represents BP's efforts to facilitate productive reuse of a 130-acre former petroleum and specialty chemical storage facility;

U.S. Department of Energy

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Provided leadership and financial support, in partnership with the Florida Energy Office, the Florida Solar Energy Center, Florida Power and Light, HUD, the Economic Development Agency, and EPA, to the Miami-Dade County, Florida – Carver Homes Hope IV/Poinciana Empowerment Zone Project. DOE funded a design charrette to develop an extensive land, water, and building plan for the redevelopment of an adjacent 30-acre brownfields site. DOE also did an economic analysis of production potential at the site that showed that financial incentives would be needed to economically produce photovoltaic panels for the Florida market;
- Partnered with South Carolina Energy Office, Wachovia Bank, the Ford Foundation, EPA, the City and County of Spartanburg, the University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Economic Development Administration to support the redevelopment of a 500-acre brownfield from an abandoned textile mill, a chemical plant, and two dumps into new housing, a connector highway, a community center, a health facility, and retail development. DOE supported a two-day design workshop to renovate a mill building on the site into the community health facility, built with energy-efficient features;
- Provided training workshops on energy-efficient practices to residents of a new housing and commercial center developed on the 3,000-acre site of the former Charleston (North Carolina) Naval Shipyard;
- Supported the development of a 500-kilowatt photovoltaic system on a reclaimed industrial dumping ground and landfill on Chicago’s south side in collaboration with the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and Commonwealth Edison, thus converting a brownfield into a solar “brightfield”;
- Assisted the cities of East St. Louis, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, with planning for brownfields redevelopment by supporting a charette for the a recreational trail to be developed on a former brownfield along the Mississippi River;
- Provided technical assistance to the Denver Stapleton Redevelopment Project, which led to a *Building America* partnership, developer’s acceptance of a minimum energy requirement standard, and a partnership to redevelop all buildings to ENERGY STAR® specifications;
- Awarded Washington State a “brightfields” grant to coordinate a solar installation at a terminated nuclear power plant on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This site is considered one of the most contaminated environmental sites in the U.S. The system will annually produce enough electricity to power 16 homes. Over its 25-year life, the system will reduce carbon dioxide pollution by 725 tons, sulfur dioxide pollution by 1,700 pounds, and nitrous oxide pollution by 500 pounds; and
- Developed a partnership and work plan with the City of San Francisco to redevelop the Hunters Point Shipyard, a Superfund site. While still in its early stages, DOE has provided design guidance through *Building America* for development of residential properties.

In support of its commitments to provide and enhance information exchange with partners on energy-efficient redevelopment, DOE has:

- Participated in an EPA regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot program merit review panel (Atlanta Regional Office). The Regional Office also participated in two annual EPA regional brownfields workshops in Atlanta in July 2002 and August 2003, during which EPA brownfield pilot projects reported on progress achieved using EPA grants;

U.S. Department of Energy

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Developed and maintained a web site designed to support community smart growth and clean energy efforts (Denver Regional Office);
- Electronically distributed a monthly energy efficiency and renewable energy funding newsletter to over 3,000 members of the energy community (Seattle Regional Office). The newsletter includes brownfields- and brightfields-related federal funding opportunities that are posted to the *Federal Register*, Grants.gov, or FedBizOpps; and
- Participated in the national brownfields conferences and workshops sponsored by EPA in 2001 and 2002, during which DOE discussed the potential alignment between energy efficiency, on-site power generation, and brownfields redevelopment.

In support of its commitments to provide technical assistance in the field of environmental cleanup and stabilization to brownfields revitalization efforts, developing tools and providing lessons learned, supporting related environmental remediation science and technology development, assessing and exploring options for improved use of DOE-owned land, expanding communication and educational activities to include brownfields, establishing additional pilots around the country, and linking brownfields pilot activities with DOE's cleanup and remediation activities, DOE has:

- Become a founding member of the Augusta, Georgia, Brownfields Partnership, which helped one of Augusta's minority/low-income communities gain the tools and skills needed to draft and submit successful brownfields pilot applications to EPA. DOE continues to serve as the official technical advisor to the Augusta Brownfields Commission; and
- Provided technical and grants-writing assistance to five small towns that would otherwise have been unable to prepare and submit a competitive brownfields grant proposal (Glendora, Mississippi; Meridian, Mississippi; Hobson City, Alabama; Prairie View, Texas; and Nevassa, North Carolina). The assistance included developing a brownfields strategy, drafting the initial concept, writing portions of the proposal, and conducting research to support the project needs.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established as an independent agency on December 2, 1970. EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment—air, water, and land—upon which life depends. EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA is the informal leader of the Brownfields Federal Partnership and the lead federal agency implementing the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, which authorizes significant funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund, job training, and brownfields state/tribal grants. For more information about EPA's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to continue to lead the Brownfields Federal Partnership collaboration and encourage the implementation of the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda* commitments, EPA's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR), together with the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), has:

- Formed a partnership to help tribes address both brownfields and solid and hazardous waste issues, which often overlap. EPA, in turn, has formed a partnership with the Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), and Midwest Assistance Program (MAP);
- Conducted a Targeted Brownfields Assessment at two landfills at the Pine Ridge Reservation. OSWER is assisting the tribe with formally closing the landfills with financial assistance from IHS, and BIA is helping to build a new landfill;
- Participated in an interagency workgroup with EPA's federal partners. The workgroup meets for monthly conference calls to discuss problems that tribes encounter related to brownfields and solid and hazardous waste, possible solutions, and innovative ways to address the problems; and
- Coordinated the payment and management of an interagency agreement with the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service to provide coordinated brownfields and solid and hazardous waste assistance via circuit riders and other technical sources of support. Through this interagency agreement, the IHS has contracted with the MAP so that two employees can assist tribes in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

In support of its commitment to provide as much as \$850M (projected) over five years to states, counties, tribes, municipalities, and non-profit organizations through brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund, job training, and brownfields state/tribal grants, EPA has:

- Awarded approximately \$150 million in brownfields grants to communities nationwide and \$100 million to states and tribes in Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004;

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Provided 554 assessment grants totaling over \$150 million, 171 revolving loan fund grants totaling over \$145 million, and 66 cleanup grants totaling \$11.4 million since the beginning of the brownfields program. Assessment grants (each funded up to \$200,000) are used to inventory, characterize, and conduct planning at brownfields sites. Revolving loan fund grants (each funded up to \$1 million per eligible entity) provide funding for communities to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites. The cleanup grants (each funded up to \$200,000) provide funding for grant recipients to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites that they own; and
- Leveraged more than \$6.5 billion in private investment, helped leverage more than 29,000 jobs, and facilitated the assessment of more than 4,800 properties since the inception of the brownfields program.

In support of its commitment to successfully implement the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act with Brownfields Federal Partnership stakeholders in mind, through an approach that includes expanding the number and types of brownfields grants, making grants available specifically for brownfields cleanup, integrating and streamlining the brownfields grants application for the ease of applicants, clarifying applicability of liability provisions in the new law, and developing a regulation that establishes a standard for conducting “all appropriate inquiry” under Superfund, EPA has:

- Partnered on several workshops for 128(a) (Brownfields Tribal Response Program) grants with the assistance of the Indian Health Service, the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, and the Midwest Assistance Program;
- Sponsored several workshops aimed at tribal personnel who administer the Tribal Response Grants to ensure that they understand the terms and conditions of these grants and the full potential of the funding; and
- Prepared a toolkit that provides tribes with the resources needed to assist with the implementation of a Brownfields Tribal Response Program (TRP) and creation of an Integrated Waste Management System. The toolkit provides information on the various elements of a TRP, including important information regarding the five elements required for a tribe to receive TRP grant funding from EPA.

In support of its commitment to ensure that brownfields redevelopment efforts remain an important component of its environmental justice efforts, which include conducting Environmental Justice (EJ) Regional Listening Sessions focused on brownfields and revitalization of communities; providing brownfields and community revitalization tools, resources, and information to communities and tribes facing brownfields redevelopment challenges; and ensuring that brownfields and community revitalization become an important component of the EJ Revitalization Projects sponsored by the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG), EPA has:

- Conducted or is planning to conduct Environmental Justice Regional Listening Sessions in conjunction with Regional offices that include the discussion of the Brownfields Program. Many of these sessions are conducted along with state government partners, including California, Maryland, and New Mexico. These sessions contribute to the ongoing EPA efforts to ensure that EJ principles are incorporated during the brownfields cleanup and redevelopment process in every region of the country;

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Provided travel scholarships to community-based organizations to attend *Brownfields 2004*. EPA will present sessions and workshops specifically geared to communities and tribes as well as support a Community/Environmental Justice Caucus at this annual conference; and
- Begun promoting holistic and integrated community-based problem solving to address EJ issues in environmentally, economically, and socially distressed communities through its participation in a series of 15 IWG EJ Revitalization Projects. Several of these projects, notably Rock Hill, South Carolina, and Trenton, New Jersey, deal specifically with brownfields. The most notable success in brownfields redevelopment and community revitalization resulted from an earlier IWG revitalization project—the ReGenesis Revitalization Project in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This project obtained major commitments of financial and other resources from six federal agencies, a community health clinic, and a HUD HOPE VI Grant. In addition, a biotechnology firm committed to locating a manufacturing facility in the community. The ReGenesis Revitalization Project also provided lessons for the development of an Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, which provided the basis for EPA’s Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Program, which started in 2003. In the past two years, 30 non-profit, community-based organizations received awards of \$100,000 each.

In support of its commitment to develop a technology tools resource document for brownfields properties, EPA’s Office of Research and Development (ORD) has:

- Developed, in conjunction with a U.S. and German Bilateral Working Group and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC), a product that contains searchable databases of characterization, remediation, and monitoring technologies, as well as cultural heritage technique case studies. The first draft of the Site-Specific Management Approach and Redevelopment Tool—Technology, or “SMARTtech,” can be found at: <http://www.itrcweb.org/common/content.asp?en=TA415814&sea=Yes&set=Both&sca=Yes&sct=Long&ead=tb&sad=lt>. The second draft is undergoing peer review and will be available at the same location when it is cleared for publication (expected September 30, 2004).
- Developed a *Road Map to Understanding Innovative Technology Options for Brownfields Investigation and Cleanup*, which is now in its Third Edition and is available both online (<http://brownfieldstsc.org/pdfs/roadmap3rded.pdf>) and in hard copy (542-B-01-001). The fourth edition is now underway and will be available in CY 2005. To date, EPA has distributed over 25,000 copies of this document via the Internet and hard copy.

In support of its commitment to develop a guide for site-specific management approaches to redevelopment, the U.S. and German Bilateral Working Group and the ITRC have:

- Developed SMARTresource. The SMARTresource document contains a broad spectrum of information related to brownfields revitalization, including the analysis of scientific, economic, and social issues that impact brownfields reuse. The first draft of SMARTresource can be found at <http://www.itrcweb.org/common/content.asp?en=TA415814&sea=Yes&set=Both&sca=Yes&sct=Long&ead=tb&sad=lt>. The second draft is undergoing peer review. It will be available at the same location when it is cleared for publication (expected September 30, 2004); and

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Begun developing SMARTe, an implementation of SMARTresource on the World Wide Web. SMARTe is a decision support tool that will allow different reuse alternatives to be evaluated and compared. The working group hopes to make the first draft available in December 2004. The complete tool will not be available until 2007.

In support of its commitment to holding technical workshops on topics related to innovative approaches to tax and finance incentives, risk assessment/management, and sustainability, the U.S. and German Bilateral Working Group has:

- Sponsored four workshops and is planning two more.

In support of its commitment to Update its directory of Federal Technical Assistance on assessment and cleanup, EPA has:

- Completed the new *Directory of Technical Assistance for Land Revitalization* in Fall 2004. It is also available on-line (<http://brownfieldstsc.org/directory/directory.cfm>) and in hard copy (542-B-03-001).

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Background

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) mission is to maintain the stability of and public confidence in the nation's financial system by insuring deposits and promoting safe and sound banking practices. FDIC encourages EPA to share its Money Smart financial education curriculum with community members impacted by the revitalization efforts at brownfields sites across the county. The Money Smart curriculum helps individuals build financial knowledge and develop financial confidence, and is therefore well-suited to the needs of many of the brownfields communities. Low- and moderate-income community members will be better prepared to participate fully in the job training and job creation efforts made possible by the brownfields initiatives. For more information about FDIC's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit FDIC's website at www.fdic.gov.

Progress to Date

Although FDIC has made progress toward fulfilling the commitments outlined in the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda*, a discussion of these accomplishments was not available at press time. Please check EPA's brownfields website (www.epa.gov/brownfields) for updates, which will be posted when they become available.

Federal Housing Finance Board

Background

The Federal Housing Finance Board (FHFB) regulates the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) System, whose member banks lend at competitive rates to private financial institutions, such as thrifts, commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, and non-member housing associates, to support the nation's housing and community development needs. The FHLBank System represents the private-sector banking portion of the Brownfields Federal Partnership. Each FHLBank annually sets aside 10 percent of net earnings for its Affordable Housing Program (AHP), under which it makes grants and below-market-rate advances to support affordable housing. In addition, each FHL Bank makes Community Investment Cash Advances (CICA) to members to foster housing and targeted community development. Projects located in an area that involves a property eligible for a Brownfield Tax Incentive are specifically designated as being eligible for CICA financing and the FHLBanks' Standby Letters of Credit. For more information about FHFB's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit FHFB's website at www.fhfb.gov.

Progress to Date

Although FHFB has made progress toward fulfilling the commitments outlined in the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda*, a discussion of these accomplishments was not available at press time. Please check EPA's brownfields website (www.epa.gov/brownfields) for updates, which will be posted when they become available.

U.S. General Services Administration

Background

The General Services Administration (GSA) is one of the three central management agencies in the federal government, along with the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget. The agency serves as a builder, developer, lessor, and manager of 1,800 federally owned buildings and 4,000 federally leased properties. As landlord and holder of real estate for the federal government, GSA recognizes the importance of cleanup and reuse of brownfields properties as a catalyst for positive change in urban areas. Brownfields transactions are primarily real estate deals—GSA has the knowledge and experience to serve as the “honest broker” in these transactions, bringing the right resources and people to the table to get the deal done. For more information about GSA’s brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit GSA’s website at www.gsa.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EPA to strengthen the existing relationship by focusing on the real property aspects of brownfields redevelopment, GSA has:

- Signed a MOU with EPA in May 2003 to coordinate brownfields policies and activities, with a particular focus on the real property components of the cleanup, reuse, and redevelopment of brownfields. The agreement is intended to enhance the relationship between both agencies and build on EPA’s strengths as the chief federal environmental regulatory authority and GSA’s role as the real estate expert and property disposal agent for the federal government. A more coordinated effort between EPA and GSA provides an important link between environmental and real estate officials.

In support of its commitment to facilitate a brownfields workshop for potential federal property developers to educate them on the federal real property disposal process and to assist in their efforts to reuse federal brownfields, GSA has:

- Facilitated a Brownfields Developers Workshop in Trenton, NJ, in June 2003. The focus of the workshop was gathering local, state, and federal officials together with brownfield developers to discuss how all the parties can work together to promote more efficient disposal and reuse of federal brownfield properties. There were several key findings that the attendees of the workshop shared with GSA. As a result of the excellent feedback and information gathered from the first workshop, a second workshop is being planned for FY 2005.

In support of its commitment to develop a tool kit to help foster the partnership necessary to successfully “seal the deal” in a brownfields transaction, GSA has:

- Developed a Toolkit that is a reference guide for interacting with communities and fostering numerous public/private partnerships with insurance/banking/developer industries. The Toolkit includes an Early Transfer Authority (ETA) fact sheet, several ETA case studies, an environmental insurance fact sheet, and information on environmental topics within GSA’s online Resource Center at <http://rc.gsa.gov/resourcecenter/>.

U.S. General Services Administration

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to develop a socioeconomic model to measure both the economic and social impacts of federal brownfields redevelopment, as well as the reuse of federal real property in general, GSA has:

- Created a new tool to augment its use of traditional case studies and to measure more fully the economic and social benefits to communities of federal real estate disposal. The Community Development Index (CDI)—a composite index made from available data on community elements—was created to provide a reliable method of gauging the potential impact of federal property reuse on community development. Community development can be evaluated using the index and compared over time to see if there is improvement overall or in any of the individual components that make up the CDI. A more complete brochure entitled *Measuring the Benefit of Federal Real Property Reuse* (which includes several case studies) was completed and published and can be obtained in soft copy format via GSA's online Resource Center at <http://rc.gsa.gov/resourcecenter/>.

In support of its commitment to coordinate a campaign to educate states and communities engaged in brownfields revitalization about innovative disposal methods, such as ETA and the privatization of remediation, GSA has:

- Conducted an Innovative Disposal Campaign to educate state and local stakeholders involved in brownfield redevelopment about the opportunity to include underused federal real property in local revitalization efforts. Among other topics, GSA shared information on the disposal process of federal real property and the associated tools (such as ETA) that can expedite the reuse of federal holdings. GSA's campaign was conducted independently and in conjunction with the National Brownfield Association.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Background

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR's mission is to reduce exposure and prevent adverse human health and quality of life effects associated with exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, unplanned releases, and other sources of pollution present in the environment. ATSDR's Regional offices, which are co-located with EPA's 10 Regional offices, serve as the liaison to federal, state, and local agencies and the community on environmental health issues, including brownfields. ATSDR contributes research and experience in public health and environmental exposure issues to brownfields stakeholders. For more information about ATSDR's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit ATSDR's website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to work closely with EPA to increase the capacity of local health entities that serve brownfield communities, ATSDR has:

- Continued to provide technical assistance on environmental public health issues. The agency is developing a compendium of public health information related to brownfields and other land reuse activities. This compendium will be available to local health departments electronically in the future. ATSDR also is working on an online database with brownfields-related health documents and information that can be accessed by local health departments.

In support of its commitment to support local health departments in Brownfields Showcase Communities, ATSDR has:

- Worked with EPA to establish a grant program to provide funds to local public health departments in areas where EPA funded Brownfields Showcase Communities. These grants were provided in 1998 and in 2001 to a total of nine communities. ATSDR would like to provide new grants in the future if funding is available.

In support of its commitment to complete a lessons learned report on the first six ATSDR grants to local health departments, ATSDR has:

- Completed a draft final lessons learned report in August 2003 on the 1998 ATSDR grants intended for distribution to local health departments, which is currently going through internal ATSDR review and clearance. A second lessons learned report for the 2001 ATSDR grants to local health departments is being developed.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to provide technical assistance to brownfields communities on the health monitoring provision of the new brownfields legislation, ATSDR has:

- Participated in the review of the 2003 and 2004 brownfields grant proposals. One focus of the review work was identifying proposals that made use of the health monitoring provision. ATSDR would like to promote this aspect for future grantees and will provide technical assistance to brownfields communities on the health monitoring provision of the new brownfields legislation.

In support of its commitment to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other federal partners to encourage the development of housing on brownfield sites, ATSDR has:

- Continued to work with other interested federal agencies to increase awareness of the need to include environmental public health in the brownfields redevelopment process. The agency is working with HUD in the development of a partnership to encourage housing development at brownfields sites.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Background

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) funds grants to non-profit organizations to develop and deliver high quality training to workers involved in handling hazardous materials or responding to emergency releases. The program's objective is to prevent work-related harm by training workers about how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during hazardous waste operations or transportation, brownfields and minority worker training, environmental restoration of nuclear weapons facilities, or chemical emergency response. NIEHS contributes biomedical, public health, environmental research, and training programs to people involved in environmental cleanup and remediation, and provides outreach and education on environmental health issues to organizations and the general public. For more information about NIEHS's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit NIEHS's website at www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to increase workforce development opportunities for residents surrounding brownfields communities, NIEHS has:

- Continued to administer the Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP) during the past year. Between September 1, 2002, and August 31, 2003, EPA provided NIEHS with \$3,000,000 through an interagency agreement in support of the Congressionally mandated activities in Superfund worker training programs, specifically the BMWTP. With these funds, NIEHS provided grants for training activities to Xavier University of Louisiana, Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund, Center to Protect Workers Rights, National Puerto Rican Forum, and the New Jersey/New York Consortium. These five awardees provided in depth life skills and environmental training to 344 local residents in 15 brownfields communities. Approximately 72% of these recent graduates are now employed. Over the past four years, 1,860 workers have now received training; 66% of these are now employed;
- Developed a plan to recompete BMWTP through 2010 and committed to include a brownfields component in the program. NIEHS also is developing a series of presentations on the program to be presented at the *Brownfields 2004* conference in St. Louis; and
- Incorporated health and safety training at the community level for those minority workers drawn into Portfields redevelopment and Homeland Security projects.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to develop lessons learned or best practices reports on current NIEHS BMWTPs, NIEHS has:

- Produced a report entitled *Assessing the Full Potential of our Brownfields & Minority Worker Training Programs* in June 2003. The report, which was distributed to all NIEHS Brownfields and Minority Worker Training Awardees, examines the overall advancement of the program and analyzes impediments to its success. The report's four key focus areas include: 1) increasing the visibility of the BMWTP; 2) increasing understanding of brownfields issues, especially funding, partnerships, new opportunities for programs, and other initiatives related to Workforce Development; 3) examining challenges and obstacles to administering the program as they relate to the success of NIEHS's brownfields programs; and 4) developing strategies and plans for next steps;
- Shared lessons learned and best practices with *Brownfields 2003* attendees in Portland, Oregon; and
- Included references to lessons learned and success stories in the NIEHS Brownfields Accomplishment Report for 2002-2003.

In support of its commitment to continue to work with EPA's Brownfields Office to promote job training programs, share and exchange information, and develop other workforce development opportunities, the NIEHS Worker Education & Training Program has:

- Participated in six sessions related to the BMWTP at the *Brownfields 2003* conference. NIEHS also shared an information booth with EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response and the Labor Health and Safety Task Force, thereby providing awardees the opportunity to share success stories and lessons learned with their colleagues.

In support of its commitment to work with the federal partners to promote brownfields redevelopment regarding job training, with a specific focus on working with EPA and the Department of Labor (DOL), NIEHS has:

- Continued to work with EPA, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA/DOL), and EPA's Labor Task Force to promote brownfields job training activities. With EPA, the EPA Labor Task Force, and OSHA, NIEHS developed sessions at *Brownfields 2003* and shared a booth at the conference. NIEHS also collaborated with FDIC to conduct a training of the Money Smart Curriculum at the 2003 NIEHS National Trainers Exchange. FDIC developed the Money Smart curriculum to help adults enhance their money management skills, understand basic financial services offered by the financial mainstream, and build their financial confidence to use banking services effectively. Since this training, the FDIC Money Smart program has been deployed at many of NIEHS's BMWTP sites, including Chicago (IL), New York (NY), Newark (NJ), and East Palo Alto (CA).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides grants and economic development loan guarantees to help communities clean up and redevelop brownfields. HUD has three principal economic programs that communities can use to clean up and revitalize contaminated sites: 1) annual formula grants allocated to states and entitlement communities through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); 2) low interest economic development loan guarantees available through the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program; and 3) competitive grants through the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI). Other programs are available to assist communities with brownfields revitalization, including the Renewal Community/Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Initiative (RC/EZ/EC), the Rural Housing and Economic Development program (RHED), the Home Investment Partnership program (HOME), the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program, and HUD's University and College programs. For more information about HUD's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit HUD's website at www.hud.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to emphasize brownfields redevelopment through tax incentives within Renewal Communities, Urban Empowerment Zones, and Enterprise Communities, HUD has:

- Convened five Community Renewal workshops in late 2003 and early 2004. The aim of these workshops was to educate current and potential investors in Renewal Communities, Urban Empowerment Zones, and Enterprise Communities on the potential application of tax incentives for redevelopment. Representatives of hundreds of businesses, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, tax attorneys, accountants, and representatives of the Internal Revenue Service participated in a series of workshops designed to explore the potential value and use of incentives. Until its expiration at the end of 2003, the federal Environmental Cleanup deduction was one of the tax incentives featured in the workshop presentations. Also featured was the potential use of the Commercial Revitalization deduction as a redevelopment tool;
- Increased outreach and marketing efforts, thereby soliciting nearly twice as many Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) applications in 2003 than had been previously received. These efforts included customized letters to each of the nation's CDBG entitlement communities, as well as a mailing to potential applicants announcing HUD's satellite broadcast presentation of the BEDI Notice of Funding Availability. HUD also received a marked increase in the number of applications in the RHED program that focused on brownfields redevelopment;
- In FY 2003, 76% of HUD's BEDI program funding went to communities supported by EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants; HUD's support amounted to \$22.4 million in grants and \$87.8 million in Section 108 loans for redevelopment;

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Organized local Community Renewal workshops, identifying those parties with particular redevelopment and brownfields experience or interests;
- More than tripled its number of environmental specialists nationwide, thereby bringing environmental expertise to every field office. This has significantly increased HUD's capacity to oversee the environmental review of its programs as well as assist in the development of brownfields and other projects with environmental implications; and
- Issued guidance to the field offices encouraging them to identify and pursue potential Phoenix Award nominations for 2004.

In support of its commitment to provide new data information systems to gather and disseminate information on brownfields project outcomes, and to include brownfields redevelopment information in communication and educational materials and activities, HUD has:

- Twice issued program guidance in the past year reminding its CDBG recipients of the requirement to report specifically on their use of BEDI funds in their annual reports;
- Issued new draft regulations governing the use of CDBG funds that specifically qualify brownfields cleanup as an eligible "clearance" activity under the CDBG program;
- Hosted EPA staff who were detailed for thirty-day periods to assist in the development of an improved system for tracking brownfields redevelopment nationwide and to explore the potential of better coordination of data between the two partnering agencies;
- Collaborated with EPA in the dissemination of each other's announcement of brownfields grant funding opportunities. HUD staff also assisted in the review of EPA's 2004 Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund applications, and EPA staff assisted HUD in the review of the 2003 BEDI applications; and
- Subsidized scholarships for selected attendees of *Brownfields 2003* (EPA's National Brownfields Conference).

U.S. Department of the Interior

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) protects, manages, and provides access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage on over 507 million acres of lands, or about one-sixth of the land in the U.S., and about 2 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. Composed of multiple bureaus and offices, DOI manages natural resources for a healthy environment and a strong economy, supports science for a changing world, and provides recreation for America. In addition, DOI honors the U.S. trust responsibilities to federally recognized tribes and our commitments to U.S. territories and freely associated states. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), which provides for a coordinated and unified approach and response to environmental issues that affect multiple bureaus, is currently coordinating with the National Park Service and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on their respective ongoing brownfields activities and is supporting the establishment of brownfields partnerships by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other bureaus. For more information, please visit the DOI website at www.doi.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to establish a Brownfields Redevelopment Working Group among DOI bureaus and offices, DOI has:

- Established a Brownfields Redevelopment Working Group that includes representatives from all appropriate DOI bureaus and offices and is chaired by OEPC. The group is serving as a forum for communicating and coordinating brownfields activities across DOI. The most recent meeting was held on May 4, 2004, at DOI's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) office in Reston, Virginia. At the recent meeting, USGS and EPA demonstrated the applicability of the Landview DVD to brownfields activities.

In support of its commitment to explore the possibility of assisting EPA with inventorying, characterizing, assessing, and planning related to brownfields sites, facilitating DOI participation in performing targeted site assessments, and establishing a DOI brownfields website, DOI has:

- Actively participated in several new initiatives, including Portfields and the Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group;
- Assisted with the development of the "All Appropriate Inquiry" regulation and coordinated comment on the regulation with the bureaus and Solicitor's office.
- Drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EPA that establishes a general working relationship on brownfields policies and activities. The MOU will serve as an umbrella for bureau-specific MOUs with EPA. A signing ceremony for the MOU is being planned.

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Background

As the federal government's largest landowner, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers approximately 260 million acres for recreation, commercial activities, cultural resources, biological habitat, and wilderness. Due to past commercial activities such as mines and landfills, BLM owns many contaminated sites, which are often the only undeveloped land surrounding some towns and cities. Most of the sites pose little risk to human health and the environment and therefore are not a priority for BLM's cleanup program; however, local communities and municipalities have expressed interest in acquiring these lands for redevelopment and recreational purposes. For more information, please visit the BLM website at www.blm.gov/nhp.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to examine ways to overcome the barriers posed by Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, which required federal agencies to cleanup all land prior to transfer of the property, and the new Brownfields Law prohibiting brownfields grants from being used on federal property in order to help facilitate the reuse of brownfields, BLM has:

- Met with EPA Brownfields Program staff to discuss programmatic issues and the best mechanisms for BLM participation. BLM explored cleanup and reuse of a landfill site with joint BLM, city, and private ownership in a growing suburban area of a western city. The area is targeted for reuse as a greenway by the city, which is interested in facilitating the transfer of the BLM land. BLM worked to develop a partnership with the owners and provided funding for capping its portion of the landfill in compliance with CERCLA 120(h). BLM will complete the capping of its portion of the landfill and reuse the site by developing hiking trails and other public amenities. BLM will continue to explore other opportunities for partnering with communities on brownfields development.

In support of its commitment to work closely with DOI to examine strategies that would allow BLM to participate more fully in the Brownfields Federal Partnership, BLM has:

- Actively participated on the DOI Brownfields Redevelopment Working Group and the Interagency Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group. BLM also is actively involved with other federal partners in a proposed pilot project for the Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group. The project involves the redevelopment of the Eureka Town Site in Colorado. There is an active community stakeholders group that is willing to participate. Initial meetings have been held with local officials about the feasibility of this project.

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Surface Mining

Background

In cooperation with state and tribal agencies, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSM) is responsible for protecting the environment by regulating coal mining activities and the reclamation of mining sites abandoned prior to 1977. The new brownfields law recognizes mine-scarred lands as brownfields, and OSM participates in the Brownfields Federal Partnership by providing training and support to OSM/Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteers and assisting with grant applications for brownfields pilots in coal-impacted watersheds. For more information, please visit OSM's website at www.osmre.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to work with EPA and other federal partners to address environmental concerns from acid mine drainage at mining sites, coalfields, and contaminated watersheds, OSM has:

- Participated in the interagency Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group, which was formed to collaboratively foster the cleanup and sustainable revitalization of mine-scarred lands and affected communities. OSM led the call for formation of the working group, which has selected and confirmed six typical abandoned-mine brownfields to serve as demonstration projects (lead agencies listed in parentheses):
 - ▶ CAN DO Innovations site, Hazleton, PA (U.S. EPA);
 - ▶ Kelly's Creek Watershed, Kanawha County, WV (OSM);
 - ▶ Rand Osborn Tipple site, Lee County, VA (Appalachian Regional Commission);
 - ▶ Eureka Town Site, San Juan County, CO (Bureau of Land Management);
 - ▶ Barrick Bullfrog Mine, Nye County, NV (U.S. EPA); and
 - ▶ Pennsylvania Mine, Summit County, CO (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Each of the three hard-rock mine sites in the West have completed their initial assessments and held a convening meeting; these tasks will be completed in September 2004 for the three Eastern coal mine sites; and

- Brought other projects to the attention of the working group—in particular, an EPA environmental justice grant for three small watersheds in southwestern Virginia. The grant helps fund innovative solutions to environmental problems, and the targeted area includes the Rand Osborne Tipple site—one of the six selected as demonstration projects. OSM led the partnership that prepared the grant application and continues to work on the project. A new OSM/VISTA position has been approved for the project, and additional funding from EPA supported a convening meeting that established a regional network of support from county, state, and federal offices, as well as from local stakeholders.

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Surface Mining

Progress to Date (contd.)

In support of its commitment to continue to provide technical support to new brownfields initiatives, OSM has:

- Continued to provide technical guidance to Coal Creek in Tennessee and Kelley's Creek in West Virginia—the demonstration project sites selected by the Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group. Along with EPA Region 4, OSM assisted Coal Creek in reorganizing the administration of its brownfields grant;
- Participated in other brownfields projects under development, including the CAN DO Innovations site and the Rand Osborn Tipple site, which were two more sites selected by the working group;
- In conjunction with the OSM Brownfields Coordinator, worked with sites in Alabama and West Virginia to bring new applications to the table; and
- Worked closely with the first brownfields targeted assessment for acid mine drainage at the North Fork of the Blackwater River in Virginia.

In support of its commitment to continue to work with OSM/VISTA Watershed Development Coordinators to provide direct training on brownfields in coalfields grant-writing and project development, OSM has:

- Provided training in brownfields development, grant writing, and project coordination to 34 full-time coordinators serving watersheds in the Appalachian coal country; and
- Led a special session on brownfields development, grant writing, and project coordination during the annual OSM/VISTA team training in July 2004.

In support of its commitment to continue to provide administrative support through cooperative agreements to first-year OSM/VISTA positions and to expand the OSM/VISTA Watershed Development Coordinator positions to new states in 2003, OSM has:

- Expanded the number of OSM/VISTA sites by 50% in 2003 and by another 20% in 2004;
- Remained committed to providing administrative support to the positions in their first year in FY 2005; and
- Expended \$50,000 on ten cooperative agreements in FY 2004, and devoted a significant amount of time for one OSM staff member to serve as both the brownfields and OSM/VISTA coordinator.

In support of its commitment to participate in regional training with the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) and other agencies in coal country and to bring interested Watershed Development Coordinators and other staff to conferences, whenever feasible, OSM has:

- Given presentations on the success of a watershed/brownfields approach in the Appalachian coal country at several national conferences. However, travel costs and scheduling have limited the participation of the coordinators in NALGEP training for brownfields; and
- Worked with state offices and EPA regional offices to bring training to as many communities as possible.

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

Background

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) serves the nation as an independent, impartial, fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resources. USGS has a diversity of scientific expertise including geographic technologies (Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, etc.) that have the potential to play a significant role in the overall brownfields redevelopment process. For more information, please visit the USGS website at www.usgs.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to determine the role that geographic technologies, such as GIS and remote sensing, can play in the overall brownfields redevelopment process and demonstrate how these technologies can assist local stakeholders to effectively manage and make decisions based on effective information management, USGS has:

- Funded research on the role that spatial information technologies can play in providing an inventory of potential brownfield sites. The first study site was in the City of Des Moines (IA). This technology can be transferred to any urban setting to assist in the overall brownfields management process.

In support of its commitment to determine whether spatial data management is a possible tool for use in the overall brownfields process, USGS has:

- Provided training in geospatial technology and collaboration to representatives from Kelly's Creek Watershed (WV), the City of Des Moines (IA), and the Blackwater River (WV).

In support of its commitment to conduct outreach and training activities in Appalachia with two new brownfields watersheds, the North Fork of the Blackwater River (WV) and Coal Creek (TN), USGS has:

- Provided training to these groups in order to further the activities in geospatial technology and collaboration; and
- Together with EPA, begun investigating laboratory, field, and imaging applications of detailed spectral techniques in a variety of environmental applications. Having acquired hyperspectral imagery from the NASA Advanced Visible Infrared Imaging System-AVIRIS, for the Kelly's Creek Watershed, West Virginia, USGS anticipates, given further interest and support in the year 2005, that they will conduct a spectral analysis of this area utilizing hyperspectral imagery and field spectroscopic techniques to identify any potential pollution issues that may have significance for direct brownfield applications.

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

Background

The National Park Service (NPS) regulates, promotes, and conserves America’s national parks in such a manner as to “leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” NPS supports state and local conservation and recreation efforts through a range of recognition programs, technical assistance, and grants.

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) helps local and state agencies and community organizations in their conservation efforts by providing planning, regional assessment, and conservation assistance, especially in urban areas and for projects that include or affect underutilized contaminated properties. The Federal Lands to Parks program (FLP) helps state and local governments acquire surplus federal lands for public parks and recreation areas. The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program provides grants to economically distressed local governments to rehabilitate recreation facilities in urban areas, and for innovative recreation programs and services. Since July 1996, NPS and EPA have cooperated on initiatives promoting sustainable community-based conservation and brownfields redevelopment, most notably through the Groundwork (GW) USA Initiative. GW USA is a network of locally controlled community corporations that seeks to increase the capacity of communities to improve long-term support for abandoned inner-city industrial sites and other derelict lands. For more information, please visit the NPS website at www.nrc.nps.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to support the GW USA network, including assisting each of the existing pilots as well as the Groundwork USA national office, NPS has:

- Provided assistance to the nine established GW Trusts in Bridgeport (CT), Concord (NH), Lawrence (MA), Providence (RI), Somerville (MA), Yonkers (NY), Minneapolis (MN), Denver (CO), and Elizabeth (NJ). This assistance included networking, information sharing, promotion, resource development, and managing funding agreements. All GW projects and programs are designed to accomplish other community goals, including job training, environmental education, social inclusion, partnering diverse interests, and community rebuilding. These projects are carried out through a creative mix of staff, volunteers, and donated and contracted services designed to leverage resources as much as possible and to engage residents in the transformation of their own communities;
- Provided assistance to GW USA, the network’s national office, to designate three new GW Pilot Communities in El Paso (TX), Gary (IN), and New Orleans (LA);
- Organized the 5th Annual GW USA Assembly to celebrate accomplishments, share expertise, network, and plan future activities with Trust staff and Board members, leadership from GW USA and GW United Kingdom (UK), representatives from the new GW USA communities, and staff from NPS and EPA;
- Developed two national programs (Green Team Environmental Youth Service Program and Urban Canopy Tree Planting and Stewardship Program) and initiated a fund raising plan to help the Trusts implement the programs;

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Drafted and finalized a 2004-2006 business plan for the development of GW USA and initiated a fundraising strategy to implement the plan;
- Helped GW USA achieve designation as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service;
- Managed a partnership with GW UK;
- Applied for and achieved associate membership in the Federation of Groundwork Trusts in the UK;
- Organized Trust staff exchanges with GW UK;
- Helped the nine established Groundwork Trusts to leverage \$1,778,000 in 2003 to support community led projects and programs;
- Improved 70 sites, including parks, derelict lots, streetscapes, natural areas, business districts, and vacant spaces;
- Maintained 121 sites and cleaned up 216 additional sites;
- Established nine Green Teams to involve youth in community improvement projects and environmental education programs and two Intergenerational Green Teams to bring together youth and seniors on similar projects;
- Developed a new Brownfield Employment and Job Training Program, placing 68% of graduates in full time jobs;
- Submitted a successful bid for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Active Living by Design grant;
- Planted 431 trees, 467 shrubs, and 2,825 perennials to beautify public spaces; and
- Improved 37 acres of brownfields/derelict land and 108 acres of community open space and parkland.

In support of its commitment to establish additional pilots around the country as EPA funding permits, NPS has:

- Been instrumental in developing five new Groundwork Pilot Communities in Dallas (TX), El Paso (TX), Gary (IN), Milwaukee (WI), and New Orleans (LA). NPS provided informational materials, held GW presentations at national and local forums, and managed funding agreements.

In support of its commitment to link brownfields pilot activities with NPS activities (assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and Federal Lands to Parks Program) to create more attractive and sustainable communities, NPS has:

- Through the Federal Lands to Parks Program, deeded (or will deed by the end of 2004) 70 former military base closure parcels, including 10,643 acres, in 19 states (AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, MA, MD, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, VA, and WA) and Guam. The program also has been involved in converting former Army ammunition plants, and expects to transfer about 5,000 acres in Wisconsin and Tennessee as new public parks.

U.S. Department of Justice

Background

The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) "Operation Weed and Seed" is a strategy that "weeds out" violent crime, gang activity, drug use, and drug trafficking in targeted neighborhoods, and then "seeds" the target area by restoring these neighborhoods through social and economic revitalization. Law enforcement activities constitute the "weed" portion of the program. Revitalization, which includes prevention, intervention, and treatment services and neighborhood restoration, constitutes the "seed" element. DOJ offers up to \$50,000 in flexible Weed and Seed funding for use in brownfields activities. For more information about DOJ's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit DOJ's website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to represent the interests of all federal partners in litigation, DOJ has:

- Continued to represent the interests of all federal partners in litigation, per the agency's core mission.

In support of its commitment to advise federal partners on legislative implementation, DOJ has:

- Worked closely with EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and its Brownfields Office to develop guidances that clarify the applicability of liability provisions in the new brownfields law. In particular, DOJ worked with EPA and other federal agencies to develop a regulation that establishes standards for conducting the "all appropriate inquiry" that is required to establish a defense to Superfund liability for prospective purchasers.

In support of its commitment to consider revising the Executive Office for Weed & Seed's Official Recognition and/or grant applications to more strongly encourage brownfields redevelopment, DOJ has:

- Revised its FY 2004 Competitive Application Kit to award points to applicants that have federal, state, or local brownfields efforts underway. Applicants are awarded two points towards funding eligibility for having partnerships and collaborations related to brownfields that tie to their Weed and Seed Strategy in the designated areas. This information can be found on page 6 of the solicitation (which is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo);
- Published a new 2004 Community Capacity Development Office Program Guide and Application Kit that includes a new section on the interrelationship of a community's Weed and Seed strategy and EPA's Brownfields Program; and
- Awarded Special Emphasis Area funding to select sites to support brownfields and methamphetamine lab efforts. Eligible sites can receive an additional \$50,000 to support such endeavors. In FY 2003, Evansville (IN) and Great Falls (MT) utilized these additional funds to support brownfields efforts.

In support of its commitment to use settlements and assets to assist with brownfields redevelopment, DOJ has:

- Entered into 17 prospective purchaser agreements (PPAs) that will enable the clean-up and productive reuse of contaminated sites; and

U.S. Department of Justice

Progress to Date (contd.)

- Examined the potential use of supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) to promote brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

In support of its commitment to distribute information and provide guidance on EPA's brownfields efforts to U.S. Attorney's offices and to other partners through website linkages, a Federal Resource Guide, and other appropriate venues, DOJ has:

- Published a 2004 Weed and Seed Guide to Federal Resources, which can be found at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows>. The guide provides information on numerous federal programs, including the Brownfields Program administered by EPA, that are available to help communities address neighborhood revitalization.

U.S. Department of Labor

Background

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) fosters, promotes, and develops the welfare of working people by improving their working conditions and enhancing their opportunities for profitable employment. DOL actively promotes the Brownfields Federal Partnership through its employment programs. As a part of this effort, DOL is working through stakeholders of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which created a national network of One-Stop Career Centers offering a host of federally funded employment and training services. Individuals can access high-quality local information on available jobs, skill requirements, and training provider performance through 1,800 access points to One-Stop Career Centers. DOL's basic job and life skills training complements other, more environmentally focused training programs designed to help assess and clean up brownfields. Together, these programs ensure that community residents most impacted by brownfields will directly benefit from their redevelopment. Services at the national, state, and local levels all cooperate to promote the complementary missions of DOL and EPA. For more information about DOL's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit DOL's website at www.doleta.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to encourage state and local Workforce Investment Boards to consider using WIA training funds for local brownfields projects, DOL has:

- Issued, through its Employment and Training Administration, a Training and Employment Notice to all State Workforce Agencies and State Workforce Liaisons announcing opportunities to collaborate with EPA on brownfields economic redevelopment;
- Participated in the review of grant criteria for EPA's Brownfields Job Training Grants for each of the last three years. During this time, DOL was able to make the grant application process more consistent with DOL guidelines for tracking and reporting results. Each year prior to the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP), DOL notified (through conference calls, DOL's website, and direct contact calls) local and state Workforce Investment Boards that might be eligible for these funds;
- Provided technical assistance to the Workforce Investment Boards as they prepared their applications for Brownfields Job Training Grants. In addition, DOL staff met with the brownfields regional representatives to critique the applications. Over the past two years, Workforce Investment Boards have been involved with successful applications that have netted approximately \$3 million for training and related services. The synergy of these projects has been impressive;
- Directly contacted local Workforce Investment Boards near brownfields sites to make them aware of the existence of these sites; and
- Presented workshops to local and state Workforce Investment Boards on brownfields issues.

In support of its commitment to establish links between EPA's brownfields website and DOL's websites, DOL has:

- Posted a link to the Training and Employment Notice relating to brownfields economic redevelopment on DOL/ETA's website, which also contains links to EPA's brownfields website. Through these links, it is

U.S. Department of Labor

Progress to Date (contd.)

possible for a Workforce Investment Board to locate brownfields sites in or near their jurisdiction. The EPA brownfields website also includes links to DOL/ETA's website; and

- Added a brownfields link to DOL/ETA's America's Service Locator home page (<http://www.servicelocator.org>) under "National Locators." That link takes users to the EPA Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots locations (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/jlocat.htm#reg5>).

In support of its commitment to leverage funds for training grants that may be used in brownfields communities, DOL has:

- Leveraged Brownfields Job Training Grants awarded to Workforce Investment Boards with funding under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act and other resources used by the Workforce Investment Board; and
- Worked to encourage local Workforce Investment Boards to become involved in brownfields cleanup activities even if no Brownfields Job Training Grants are secured. This collaboration reinforces local economic development activities.

In support of its commitment to distribute training guidance to Workforce Investment Boards, DOL's ETA has:

- Issued a Training and Employment Notice to all State Workforce Agencies and State Workforce Liaisons announcing opportunities to collaborate with EPA on brownfields economic redevelopment. This is the method used by ETA for transmitting current information to the workforce system; and
- Notified local and state Workforce Investment Boards about EPA Brownfields Job Training Grants through conference calls, DOL's website, and direct contact calls.

In support of its commitment to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EPA to continue and foster interagency cooperation, DOL has:

- In conjunction with EPA, began initial work on revising an earlier MOU between DOL and EPA that established policies and procedures between the two agencies in support of EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative. The earlier MOU remains in effect until it is revised.

In support of its commitment to work with the Office of Apprenticeship to develop competency standards and skill set credential certifications that will ensure that training is institutionalized to meet industry specifications, DOL has:

- Held a preliminary meeting with the Human Resource Manager at Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc., focusing on whether a brownfields worker apprenticeship program needs to be developed. This would be differentiated from the Hazardous Materials Handler apprenticeship that already exists. Clean Harbors is currently consulting with other businesses regarding this matter.

U.S. Small Business Administration

Background

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1953 to assist, counsel, and champion the efforts of America's small businesses. SBA's mission is to provide the small business community with financial, procurement, management, and technical assistance. In addition, special emphasis is made to assist women, minorities, the handicapped, and veterans get into and stay in business. SBA district offices and other resource partners are available to assist small businesses in brownfields communities. For more information about SBA's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to disseminate brownfields information on loan policy, tax incentives, Superfund liability exemptions, and EPA Brownfields Program grant availability to SBA's district offices and to all SBA technical assistance providers, such as small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and SCORE, SBA has:

- Issued an Information Notice, effective December 10, 2003, regarding the *Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda* that was disseminated to all SBA district offices and the Management Board of the SBA for further dissemination to SBA resource partners. The Notice publicizes available SBA financial assistance programs for small businesses located at or near brownfields while maintaining SBA's existing environmental requirements for loan approval. The Notice also addresses: 1) the availability of tax incentives for certain brownfields cleanup actions; 2) the availability of the Superfund Liability Exemption; 3) SBA policies applicable to loans secured by contaminated property owners; and 4) the results of a recent collegiate study that showed redeveloping brownfields saves greenspace; and
- Studied public policies and the use of available financial assistance for small businesses in order to improve services to small businesses located at or near brownfields. An SBA sponsored study issued in June 2004 shows that the innovative approaches used in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, offer public policy lessons for the United States. The study, entitled *Small Businesses as Culprits and Clients: A Comparison of Brownfields Redevelopment in Los Angeles and Kuala Lumpur*, reveals that policy makers could avoid forcing small businesses to shy away from brownfields redevelopment if they viewed small businesses as clients rather than culprits. The study also found that although many brownfields cleanup funding and technical assistance programs exist, most small firms are unaware of them and are therefore unlikely to take advantage of them.

U.S. Department of Transportation

Background

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides policy leadership and financial assistance to improve transportation and foster economic growth while ensuring safety and security and protecting the environment. Virtually all DOT funds are distributed according to statutory formulas to state and local transportation agencies, which are responsible for the planning, programming, and selection of projects that receive federal funds. The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) Policy Office leads DOT's intermodal brownfields working group. DOT has actively participated in the interagency effort to promote the Brownfields Federal Partnership, and is exploring ways to address brownfields within the context of its transportation mission. For more information about DOT's brownfields activities, including agency contacts, please see the *Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/partnr.htm, or visit DOT's website at www.dot.gov.

Progress to Date

In support of its commitment to encourage communication and partnership links among transportation agencies and environmental, state, local, and private sector partners involved in brownfields redevelopment, DOT has:

- Through individual and cooperative efforts between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), continued to use transportation programs and resources to support the promotion, redevelopment, and reuse of brownfields. Through the federal-aid funding programs of the FHWA and FTA, states and localities are encouraged to consider brownfield sites during transportation planning and development activities and to partner with local private and public stakeholders in addressing transportation and economic development needs;
- Through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), participated in the Brownfields Showcase Communities Summit sponsored by the National Association of Local Government Environment Professionals (NALGEP). FRA participated in the panel discussion on working with railroads on brownfields projects; and
- Through the Maritime Administration (MARAD), joined the Portfields Initiative in October 2002. Under the initiative, the federal agency working group chose three projects to showcase portfields redevelopment. This effort has successfully linked the federal government to state environmental and community stakeholders.

In support of its commitment to work with the federal partners to foster communication on a regional level among field staff, DOT has:

- Through FHWA and FTA, supported and encouraged field staff interaction with federal partners and encouraged participation in interagency meetings as opportunities arose. As an example, a reminder to engage more with other federal partners was part of a brownfields presentation made at FHWA's National Environmental Conference that was held in June 2004. FHWA environment and planning staff, with representation from each state, as well as staff from other DOT modes and federal agencies, attended the conference. Field staff also were requested to inform headquarters of examples of transportation-related

U.S. Department of Transportation

Progress to Date (contd.)

state brownfield redevelopment activities that could serve as showcases for intermodal and interagency cooperation; and

- Through MARAD, were in direct contact with the three Portfield Initiative project leaders, providing assistance and offering guidance on marine transportation system initiatives as they relate to brownfields redevelopment.

In support of its commitment to share best practices and offer technical assistance and training to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), states, and local governments, DOT has:

- Through FHWA and FTA, used every opportunity to work directly with staff in the field to provide technical assistance on identifying and accessing transportation financial and program resources for brownfield redevelopment; and
- Through MARAD, worked with partners in the marine community to assist in giving port communities best management practices and lessons learned for brownfields redevelopment to ports. MARAD provides technical assistance in port, intermodal, and environmental activities and provides guidance to enhance environmental protection in the U.S. maritime industry through the Portfields Initiative.

In support of its commitment to expand existing guidance on state and local transportation agency and MPO consideration of community brownfields redevelopment in transportation planning, DOT has:

- Through FHWA and FTA, worked to revise, update, and expand existing agency guidance on brownfields and other hazardous waste sites. It is expected that contract work to collect, modify, and update information for the guidance will be completed in October 2004. FHWA and FTA estimate the joint guidance will be issued to states and MPOs by the end of 2004.

In support of its commitment to conduct research on relationships between brownfields and transportation, DOT has:

- Completed work on two FHWA-funded research projects exploring the relationship between transportation and brownfields. *Transportation Options for Brownfield Redevelopments* was completed in 2001 and presented at the TRB 2002 annual meeting. Work on *Transportation Improvements and Systems-level Brownfield Development* began in July 2002. Reports from both projects are currently being reviewed and prepared for publication, with estimated publication by the end of 2004; and
- Included language in the \$256 billion surface transportation reauthorization that makes funds explicitly available for brownfields projects.

In support of its commitment to identify brownfields opportunities in and around ports, as well as opportunities to incorporate intermodal transportation projects, such as ferry terminals and inland facilities, DOT has:

- Through MARAD, supported brownfields redevelopment through the Portfields Initiative. MARAD is working with key stakeholders throughout the U.S. in identifying potential brownfields projects that may enhance ferry terminals and inland storage facilities.