

**REMARKS BY SUSAN BODINE  
BROWNFIELD GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY  
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY  
APRIL 7, 2008**

Thank you, Alan. It's a pleasure to be here today to announce this year's winners of grant awards from EPA's Brownfields program/

For those of you who may be new to this, brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by environmental contamination. It's estimated that there may be as many as 450,000 of these sites in the United States.

EPA's Brownfields program encourages and supports the redevelopment of these sites, because in their contaminated state they can contribute to a neighborhood's economic decline. But when cleaned up, they can be the engine for substantial economic growth. And cleaning up the contamination also helps protect the health of local communities and ecosystems. In other words, brownfield cleanups are a win-win for both the economy and the environment.

In January 2002, President Bush signed the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, which authorized funding for the brownfields grants we're awarding today. These grants will help communities across the country breathe new life into old neighborhoods. Communities in 43 states, two territories, and two tribes will share over \$74 million in Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund

grants. This year, 209 applicants were selected to receive 314 grants. 194 assessment grants totaling \$38.7 million will help communities conduct site assessments, community involvement activities, and planning for eventual cleanup. 108 cleanup grants totaling \$19.7 million will help communities carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites they own. 12 revolving loan fund grants totaling \$15.7 million will help communities loan the money needed to conduct further cleanup activities at brownfields sites.

This year's grants will add to an impressive history for EPA's Brownfields Program. Since the beginning of the program, EPA has awarded 1,255 assessment grants totaling almost \$300 million, 230 revolving loan fund grants totaling more than \$217 million, and 430 cleanup grants totaling almost \$80 million. But in most cases those grants were just the beginning of much more extensive efforts. EPA's Brownfields assistance has leveraged more than \$10.4 billion in cleanup and redevelopment activities, helped create more than 47,000 jobs, and resulted in the assessment of more than 11,700 properties.

City officials across the nation are receiving the good news today regarding the distribution of EPA's 2008 Brownfields grants. And I am very pleased to present symbolic checks to the nine grantees present today. The investments you're going to make in your communities will help protect the health of your citizens. And they will help turn community eyesores into productive community assets. This is an effort that we at EPA are very proud to be part of.

So let me call up the grantees present today, beginning with our host, Butch Callery, mayor of Covington. Covington is one of five Kentucky communities to receive at least one \$200,000 EPA Brownfields grant. And you're going to receive three different grants, which will be used to assess and clean up environmental contamination at sites throughout the city.

One of those sites is right here where we're holding today's ceremony -- the former Donaldson Art Sign Company property, which was the location of a sign painting company that has been abandoned since 1987. Its industrial history dates back to the 1880s, when a soap factory operated here. The contamination here was unusually serious. An EPA Superfund Time-Critical Removal Action was completed at the site in February 1989 to remove over 200 drums and other containers of paint wastes and solvents and other associated wastes. A \$200,000 Brownfields Cleanup grant will allow the city of Covington to remove and dispose of some 400 tons of contaminated soil and conduct groundwater monitoring in order to return the property to productive use. When the cleanup is completed, I understand that the property will probably be used for office condominiums.

The city of Covington will receive two additional brownfields grants to assess both hazardous substance and petroleum contamination. The city has targeted the River District Revitalization Area and the Covington Downtown Commercial and Arts District Area for these grants. The city will use them to create market-ready sites, increase property values, and revitalize the downtown and surrounding areas of Covington. Mayor Callery, I'm delighted to present you with this check from EPA's Brownfields Program.

Next, Louisville, Kentucky, is being awarded \$200,000 for a community-wide grant to assess sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Here to receive the grant is Susan Hamilton, Assistant Director of Economic Development in Louisville.

Our next grant is being awarded to Letcher County, Kentucky -- \$400,00 to assess sites contaminated with hazardous wastes and petroleum. Ron Brunty, Chair of the Letcher County Conservation District, is here to receive the check. The city of Owensboro, Kentucky, is receiving \$600,000 to help clean up three sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Representing Owensboro today is the Chief of Police, Colonel Glenn Skeens.

Our final award winner from Kentucky is the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, which is receiving a \$200,000 community-wide grant to assess sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Would Steve Miller, Executive Director of the development district, come up to receive this check?

I also take great pleasure in presenting checks to three grantees from the state of Ohio. Ohio has seen great success in revitalizing brownfield sites across the state. And the Ohio Department of Development has taken the lead in that effort. I am pleased to present a grant of \$1.5 million to the Ohio Department of Development to set up a revolving loan fund that will be used to clean up sites across the state. Representing the state today is William Murdock, Director of the Urban Development Division of the Ohio Department of Development.

Next, I want to present a check for \$400,000 to the city of Chillicothe (chilla – COTH – ee), Ohio, to assess sites contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum. Here to receive the check is Mayor Joseph Sulzer.

The city of Circleville, Ohio, also has been awarded a \$400,000 brownfields grant to assess sites contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum. Representing Circleville today is Mayor Chuck Taylor.

Our final award winner today is from the state of Indiana. The city of Richmond, Indiana, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to clean up the Indiana Gas Building in the Whitewater Valley Gorge. Here to receive the check is Richmond Mayor Sally Hutton.

I want to thank all of you for coming today, especially those of you who had to drive a long distance. And let's give a final round of applause to all today's winners.