

EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment Supports Community Center Redevelopment in Mountain, North Dakota



The City of Mountain, North Dakota is undertaking a significant fundraising campaign to finance the construction of a new community center. An EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) helped the community identify contamination and cleanup options for the property.

New Community Center will be an Economic Asset

With almost \$1 million leveraged, the City of Mountain, North Dakota has almost reached its goal of raising \$1.26 million to build a new community center. The population of Pembina County (where the City of Mountain is located) has increased significantly over the last few years, and the community center is a much needed resource to accommodate this growth. The planned 14,000-square-foot facility will be an asset for the city and Pembina County by promoting tourism and stimulating employment and growth. In addition to providing a venue for special events, the facility will house the Mountain Chalet Café, the Thingvalla Fire Protection District, Mountain Quick Response, Icelandic Communities Association, Pembina Hills Lutheran Church, a conference room, and spaces to be leased for local businesses.

Environmental Assessment Clarifies Cleanup Requirements

In 2004, the City of Mountain received \$8,800 in contractual support through an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) that was used to identify existing environmental conditions present in and around the original community center. The assessment identified several minor, but potentially hazardous conditions and made recommendations regarding removal and disposal when demolition of the original community center occurs. A bulk asbestos survey, also funded through the TBA, assessed where asbestos was located in the building and recommended how to best dispose of it.

The city plans to use some of its fundraising campaign proceeds to clean up the contamination identified through the environmental assessment. By utilizing a TBA, the City of Mountain was able to discover and address environmental and health concerns associated with the original community center building, which enabled them to move forward with plans to construct the new and improved building.



Mountain's original community center (above) is being updated to meet growth needs. Below is an artist's rendition of Mountain's planned new community center.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted an environmental assessment to determine the extent of environmental contamination
- Developed a cleanup strategy
- Raised nearly \$1 million from private and public donors
- Led effective community involvement and planning efforts
- Made significant progress towards construction of a new community center

Fundraising Campaign is on its Way to Making this Project a Reality

Before construction can begin on the new community center, the city must raise enough money to cover the costs. For a town with less than 150 permanent residents they are executing a noble fundraising campaign, which has put them very close to their goal. As of November 2008, the town had raised close to \$1 million of their \$1.26 million goal from a wide variety of funding sources, such as USDA Rural Business Enterprise grants, a USDA Communities Facilities Grant, the Government of Iceland (ancestral home of many Mountain residents), the North Dakota Department of Commerce, and a Pembina County Job Development Grant.

The vision and commitment of the City of Mountain has been instrumental in making the new community center a reality. By effectively engaging the community, raising funds, and addressing contamination concerns, the city's efforts offer an example for other communities across the west and rural America.

LEVERAGED RESOURCES

- More than \$525,000 from USDA Rural Business Enterprise grants
- More than \$151,000 from a USDA Community Facilities Grant
- \$75,000 from the Government of Iceland
- \$50,000 from the North Dakota Department of Commerce
- \$8,800 in contractual support from an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment
- \$5,000 from a Pembina County Job Development Grant
- Several hundred thousand dollars in additional, private donations



"With so many young people choosing to live here and becoming active in our community, it is time to revive our little community and to build for the future. This new efficient facility will be an asset not only to Mountain, but also to all of Pembina County. This facility will truly help to revitalize the city and its surrounding areas."

—Tim Moore, Mayor, City of Mountain

For additional information, please contact:

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