

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

Brownfields Redevelopment Program



City of Cherryvale, 0 West Third Street Site

Background

The City of Cherryvale was a leader in the zinc smelting industry for decades early in the 20th century. Many properties impacted by the former smelter operations have been cleaned up, but some adjacent properties have remained idle due to perceived environmental issues. The City of Cherryvale applied for an EPA ARC grant, and was awarded \$400,000 in 2010. This grant allowed the City to hire an environmental consultant to inventory more than 50 potential brownfields properties and complete assessments on several of them, including a property at 0 West 3rd Street.

Investigation and Redevelopment

Investigation funded through the ARC grant identified lead contamination in the subsurface soil above KDHE's Risk-based Standards for Kansas (RSK) levels due to contaminated fill material historically spread across the entire property. The City of Cherryvale enrolled the property in the Voluntary Cleanup and Property



Excavating lead-contaminated fill material.

Redevelopment Program (VCPRP) in January 2012 to address the lead-impacted soil. An Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), also funded by the ARC grant, was submitted and approved by KDHE that fall. Based on information provided in the ABCA, City priorities, and redevelopment potential of the site, the selected remedy was to remove the most contaminated soil for off-site disposal followed by a gravel cover, and placing an Environmental Use Control (EUC) on the property; preventing future use for residential purposes.

In April 2013 the City requested the KDHE Brownfields Program provide financial assistance for the voluntary cleanup. The City committed the use of their own equipment and labor for the removal and transportation of the excavated soil, but requested KDHE assistance for in-field analysis, laboratory confirmation, and disposal fees. The City also agreed to pay for the cover and EUC fees. KDHE utilized some of its Brownfields Cleanup Assistance (BCA) funds to assist with the excavation by performing in-field analysis using an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer to guide source excavation activities. Cleanup activities were conducted on June 3, 2013, and approximately 20 tons of contaminated soil were excavated from two areas and hauled off-site for disposal at a permitted landfill. The excavated areas were backfilled with clean material.

In July 2013 the City submitted an EUC application which was approved by the KDHE in August, restricting the property from future residential use. The City realized a costs savings of more than \$5,000 by partnering with the KDHE Brownfields Program.

Benefits

- **A state and local partnership used federal, state, and local funds and resources to complete this project successfully.**
- **20 tons of contaminated soil were excavated and properly disposed of in a permitted landfill.**
- **An Environmental Use Control restricts the property from future residential development.**
- **The property was redeveloped into free city parking for local commercial developments.**