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Cleveland Property is Cleaned Up Under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program

Through the voluntary efforts of the city of Cleveland, another local brownfield has been investigated, cleaned and is ready for commercial or industrial reuse.

Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to Cleveland for cleaning up a 0.75-acre site located at East 55th Street and Euclid Avenue. The covenant not to sue completes the city's participation in Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program \(VAP\)](#) where property owners take the initiative to identify and clean up on-site contamination.

The property is situated in the Midtown redevelopment district, an area targeted for urban renewal. The vacant site once housed a variety of commercial operations including a fixture company, lathe and machine company, and a tin and print shop.

By entering VAP, the city assumed responsibility for cleaning the property. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, it hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site and clean up any contaminated areas of concern.

A covenant not to sue protects the property's owner or operator and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further investigation and cleanup. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in the same manner as when the covenant was issued.

In the 15 years since Ohio EPA issued the first covenant under VAP, more than 4,350 acres of blighted land have been revitalized at more than 260 sites across the state.

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