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

Through the voluntary efforts of a Cleveland developer, another local brownfield has been investigated, cleaned and is ready for redevelopment.

Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to Flats East Development LLC for cleaning up a 20-acre site located at 950 Main Street in Cleveland. The covenant not to sue completes the company's participation in Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program](#) (VAP) where property owners take the initiative to identify and clean up on-site contamination.

For more than 100 years, the property along the east bank of the Cuyahoga River housed heavy industry including coal and gas plants, ship building and motor freight operations. In the 1980s, the area gradually converted to nightclubs and restaurants. Now, the property is part of the Flats East Redevelopment District and is targeted for a possible hotel, offices and green space.

By entering VAP, Flats East Development assumed responsibility for cleaning the property. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, it hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site and identify any areas of concern. Building foundations, underground storage tanks, asbestos and approximately 10 acres of contaminated soils were removed from the site and safely disposed.

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 6,000 acres of blighted land have been revitalized at more than 300 sites across the state.

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