



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

**FOR RELEASE:** December 5, 2011  
**MEDIA CONTACT:** Erin Strouse (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Jed Thorp, (614) 644-2160

## **City of Steubenville Receives Covenant Not to Sue for Downtown Property, Allowing Redevelopment and Economic Growth**

Through the voluntary efforts of the city of Steubenville, another local brownfield is ready for redevelopment after undergoing an investigation and remediation through Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program](#) (VAP). Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to the city for the .01-acre property located at 152-154 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. known as the former Cools Hoagie property. Issuance of the covenant completes the city's participation in the VAP.

By entering the VAP, the city assumed responsibility for remediating the property. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, the city hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site, identify any areas of concern and remediate any contamination on the property to a level that allows for certain types of redevelopment.

The city removed more than 1,000 cubic yards of asbestos-containing demolition materials that were strewn throughout the first floor of the 3,500-square-foot building during a fire in 2008. Prior to the fire, three commercial operations occupied the first floor of the building and the upper two levels were used as residential apartments. The fire damaged the building beyond repair. With help from a [Clean Ohio](#) Revitalization Fund grant, the city demolished the building in Oct. 2010 and restored it to a green space in the downtown business and shopping district. The property has been approved for unrestricted land use.

A covenant not to sue protects the property's owners or operators and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further environmental investigation and remediation. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the covenant.

In the 16 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.

-30-

[www.epa.ohio.gov](http://www.epa.ohio.gov)