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MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Cleveland Brownfield Readied for Redevelopment

Through the voluntary efforts of Cuyahoga County's elected officials, another area brownfield has been investigated, cleaned and is ready for residential or commercial reuse.

Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to Cuyahoga County for work performed at the former Ameritrust property in Cleveland. The covenant not to sue completes the county'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 1.6-acre site – situated between Euclid Avenue, Huron Avenue and East 9th Street – consists of the former Ameritrust tower and rotunda, Huron Building, 1010 Building and Prospect Building. The once-thriving retail and banking complex was vacated in 1996. The county later purchased the property for potential redevelopment.

By entering VAP, Cuyahoga County assumed responsibility for assessing and, if needed, cleaning the property. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, the county hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site. With funding from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, contractors removed asbestos from two of the buildings. While asbestos remains in the other buildings, it does not pose a release threat. No other pollution concerns were identified on the property.

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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