

FOR RELEASE: November 7, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

**Two Youngstown Properties Receive Covenants Not to Sue
Under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program**

Through the voluntary efforts of two Youngstown property owners, two area brownfields were investigated and remediated under Ohio EPA's [Voluntary Action Program](#) (VAP). New uses include student housing and a landscaped entrance to a manufacturing facility.

Ohio EPA issued covenants not to sue to the following property owners:

- U.S. Campus Suites LLC for the one-acre Flats at Wick property (formerly known as the Electrochemicals Inc. property) located at 751 Elm Street; and
- City of Youngstown for the half-acre Brier Hill Works property (formerly known as the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company office building property) located at 2679 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Issuance of the covenants completes the volunteers' participation in the VAP.

Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, the property owners hired certified environmental professionals to assess the sites, identify any areas of concern and, if needed, remediate contamination to a level that would allow for safe redevelopment.

Through a Clean Ohio assessment cleanup grant awarded to the city of Youngstown, U.S. Campus Suites removed contaminated soils from the Flats at Wick property to a standard that would allow for residential redevelopment. The site now contains new housing for students attending Youngstown State University.

With a Clean Ohio revitalization fund grant, the city of Youngstown assessed the Brier Hill Works property and found no evidence of soil contamination. Asbestos and other hazards were removed from the old office building prior to demolition. Now vacant, the property's intended use will be as a landscaped entrance for the adjacent V&M Star complex.

A covenant not to sue protects a property owner or operator and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further 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.