

# SABR Brownfield Interested Party List Newsletter

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Emergency & Remedial Response

## Division of Emergency and Remedial Response's (DERR) Reorganization

In the Spring of this year, DERR, the Ohio EPA division that houses the VAP and the Brownfields Revitalization Section (SABR) went through a reorganization. The essential functions of the VAP and SABR have not dramatically changed - VAP is still responsible for technical assistance and reviews of NFAs, USDs and other VAP "products" and SABR is still responsible for the technical review and oversight of Clean Ohio Fund grant sites, Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBAs) and the Brownfield Inventory. What has changed is the management structure as DERR combined three sections with three managers into two sections when the third manager, Heidi Sorin retired. Tiffani Kavalec now manages the VAP, the Remedial Response Program and the State Site Assessment Program. Her new section is named the Assessment, Cleanup and ReUse Section or ACRE. Amy Yersavich now manages the Site Assistance and Brownfields Section or SABR, which, in addition to Clean Ohio Fund and TBA coordination, also oversees all certification programs (Certified Professionals, Certified Laboratories and Biocriteria Certification), Certified Professional Training, the Environmental Insurance Program (EIP), the Ohio Brownfield Conference and all DERR outreach.

Probably the biggest change you will notice is that the staff contacts for various DERR functions may have changed. To assist you with navigating "who does what", a table of contacts can be found on our Website at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/contact/contact.aspx>.

We believe this reorganization will further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of all of DERR's programs and hope you will agree. If you have any questions about DERR's reorganization, don't hesitate to contact Amy Yersavich or Tiffani Kavalec at (614) 644-2924.



September, 2009

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Before

After



### Ft Piqua Hotel, Clean Ohio Fund Grant Recipient

Built in 1891, this 103 room luxury hotel was the site of speeches given by Presidents T.R. Roosevelt and William H. Taft and hosted such celebrities of the day as Harry Houdini. Over time this grand hotel fell into disrepair and from 1987 until 2006 the hotel was abandoned, allowing further degradation to occur.

Thanks in part to a \$3 million Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Cleanup Grant, the hotel has been restored to its original grandeur and is now home to the Piqua Public Library, a specialty coffee and chocolate shop and a meeting/conference center.

## U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Round for 2009 is Open!

USEPA has announced that their 2009 Grant Round is now open. Brownfield Assessment, Cleanup, Job Training and Revolving Loan Fund grants are being accepted now until October 16, 2009. The purpose of the U.S. EPA Brownfield Grants is to enhance the economic and environmental health of communities by funding direct assessment and cleanup activities at brownfield sites.

For further information and grant proposal guidelines, please access the USEPA Grants Web Page at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-ORCR-09-04> and refer to "Open Announcements". Ohio applicants for these grants must obtain a state support letter from either Ohio EPA or the Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks (BUSTR), as appropriate. For instructions on obtaining an Ohio EPA support letter, go to the following Web link <http://epa.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=%2fhCmjOKX%2bjE%3d&tabid=3072>. BUSTR support letter instructions can be found at <http://epa.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VZ95p5x7w%2fY%3d&tabid=3072>.

## VAP Tax Exemption: New Report from ODOD Points to Incentive's Popularity

When the VAP legislation was passed by the Ohio Legislature in 1995, it contained a provision that requires the Department of Taxation to grant a tax exemption to a property that has cleaned up under the VAP, upon issuance of a covenant not to sue from the Director of the Ohio EPA. The exemption, which is issued as an order by the tax commissioner, covers the increase in the assessed value of land and the increase in the assessed value of improvements, buildings, fixtures and structures that exist at the time the tax abatement order is granted. The exemption is good for 10 years.

Ohio Department of Development is charged with keeping tabs on the use of this tax exemption and has just finalized a report which compiles information from all 88 Ohio counties on VAP tax exemptions granted for calendar year 2008. This report indicates that the VAP exemption is indeed a useful and well used voluntary cleanup incentive. In 2008 alone, over \$90 million in real property tax abatements were issued for 213 properties throughout Ohio. The largest number of property owners seeking abatements were in Cuyahoga County (56 properties), Franklin County (27 properties) and Hamilton County (21 properties). Overall, 40 of the 88 counties issued at least one tax abatement in 2008 demonstrating that the incentive is being used in both large city urban counties as well as in smaller town rural counties.

## VAP's Annual Certified Professional Training Scheduled for October 28

The VAP will be holding its Annual Certified Professional (CP) Training October 28 in Columbus at the University Plaza Hotel. The day-long training will include a developer's perspective on brownfield redevelopment, a VAP property case study, a presentation on important CP and Certified Laboratory communication needs, an overview of the CP standards of conduct and VAP and Clean Ohio Fund updates. This training is co-sponsored with the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio (ACEC Ohio). ACEC Ohio is mailing out registration brochures to all current VAP CPs. Registration information will also be posted on the VAP Web at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/volunt/volunt.aspx> in mid September.

## Midwestern States Risk Assessment Symposium

### Indianapolis, Indiana November 3-4, 2009

The Midwestern States Environmental Consultants Association is holding their annual Risk Assessment Symposium in November. This two-day Symposium will cover hot-topic issues such as emerging approaches to vapor intrusion, nanotechnology and risk communication. Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program will award 16.75 PDHUs to Certified Professionals attending the entire conference.

Visit the conference web site at <http://www.msras.org/> for additional information.

## Attending USEPA's Brownfields 2009 Conference? Don't miss this opportunity to market your brownfield sites or find brownfields ready for re-development!

Do you own brownfield sites that are available for sale or are you looking for new investment opportunities? The [Brownfields Transaction Forum](#) will bring together hundreds of brownfield sellers and developers in New Orleans on November 16 and 17, 2009. The free forum is an opportunity for corporate, individual, local government and non-profit property owners to showcase their sites to developers, investors, and financiers. [Register today.](#)

Now in its sixth year, this fast-paced interactive forum is a must attend brownfields event for corporate asset managers, economic development officials, real estate professionals, and others. A variety of properties will be available including former manufacturing plants, vacant and abandoned commercial sites, and sites eligible for a host of local, state and even federal redevelopment incentives.

Advanced [registration](#) is requested – there is no registration cost. All properties must be submitted by **October 13, 2009**. The Brownfields Transaction Forum will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 16 and 17, 2009, during Brownfields 2009 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

Please visit [www.brownfieldsconference.org/btf](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org/btf) for detailed information.

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