

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Redevelopment Authority Receives \$600,000 to Clean Up Brownfield Sites**

**GREENSBURG (May 23)** The Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland today announced the agency is the recipient of a \$600,000 federal grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to perform environmental assessments countywide in an effort to address brownfield sites.

According to April Kopas, Executive Director of the Authority, “This funding will help us continue our Brownfield Assessment Program to work with communities to reuse brownfields. Cleaning up contaminated sites is consistent with the Authority’s mission to revitalize communities and make neighborhoods clean, safe, and ready for private investment.”

Brownfields include properties that are contaminated or perceived to be contaminated. They may also include properties that are underutilized for various socioeconomic reasons, such as abandonment, obsolescence, tax delinquency, and/or blight.

The grant covers two categories of brownfields: hazardous substance and petroleum sites, and funds Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments and cleanup plans. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform up to 10 Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. Community-wide petroleum grant funds will be used to perform up to five Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments.

The Authority formed a coalition with the City of Jeannette, the City of Latrobe, and Mount Pleasant Borough. While these communities will have representation on the Advisory Board, an entity that determines project funding, the funds are available countywide.

“Communities like Latrobe are fortunate to be one of the beneficiaries of such a forward-thinking, proactive agency like the county’s Redevelopment Authority,” said Mayor Rosie Wolford. “This grant can help redevelop brownfield sites to attract new and expanding businesses while giving residents a cleaner town.”

The Authority received \$500,000 in 2015 and performed Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments for sites located in Greensburg, Jeannette, Latrobe, Monessen and Mount Pleasant; and a cleanup plan for Derry Business Park located in Derry Borough.

To learn more, or apply for funds, visit the Authority’s website:  
[www.westmorelandredevelopment.com](http://www.westmorelandredevelopment.com).

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