

## April 7, 2008 - Cambria County and Johnstown Redevelopment Authorities Receive EPA Grants

Murtha: Cambria County and Johnstown Redevelopment Authorities Receive EPA Grants

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority a grant of \$200,000 and the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority a grant of \$200,000 as part of their 2008 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup program.

"These funds provide not only Johnstown, but Cambria County, the opportunity to clean up vacant properties and create usable space for future growth," commented Murtha. "I'm proud of the success that both Authorities have had at attracting new job opportunities and family-sustaining jobs throughout our community."

Cambria County Redevelopment Authority will use the \$200,000 EPA grant to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on approximately a dozen Brownfield sites across the County, for cleanup/redevelopment planning activities, and for community outreach.

"Brownfield properties now containing old mine portals, abandoned factories and hospitals, and obsolete gas stations will be assessed; hazardous materials will be identified; plans will be prepared to remediate the hazards and remove threats to public health and the environment; and plans will then be prepared to redevelop the sites for productive community reuse," said Larry R. Custer, Executive Director.

Johnstown Redevelopment Authority will use the \$200,000 EPA grant for site cleanup of the Rosedale KOZ and Ore Yard property. Formerly part of Bethlehem Steel, this Lower Works site previously stored raw materials for the plant. The reclamation and reuse of the property will not only reduce environmental health hazards, but also provide the City with 60 acres of developable land adjacent to the Cambria Iron Works Industrial Complex.

"The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority is most pleased that EPA, with the Congressman's assistance, recognizes the City's need to utilize existing Brownfield sites," commented Ron Repak, Executive Director. "Our third class urban area has limited land resources and EPA funds will enable us to provide needed land for economic development, creating jobs for our citizens."

Since the beginning of the Brownsfields program, EPA has awarded over \$595 million in grants.

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