

May 12, 2009 - Murtha: Grants Announced for Area Brownfields Sites

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman

John P. Murtha (PA-12) announced today that the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced funding to help assess, clean-up, and reuse brownfields properties in Cambria, Somerset, and Washington Counties.

"These funds provide our communities with the opportunity to clean-up abandoned brownfields sites and create usable space for future economic growth," said Murtha. "We've had much success in redeveloping brownfields in the past, and this funding will provide additional resources to continue this important work."

In 2002, Congress passed the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, the EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants.

Johnstown Redevelopment Authority,
PA

The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority will receive \$360,000 for two brownfields site assessment grants.

These assessments will identify the contaminants that threaten human health and the environment, and help determine appropriate site reuse. The Authority will receive \$200,000 for community-wide hazardous substances to conduct five-to-seven Phase I and two-to-four Phase II environmental site assessments in the Bio-Tech Corridor near the new Johnstown Tech Park. They also will receive \$160,000 for petroleum-contaminated sites assessment, which will be used to conduct four-to-six Phase I and one-to-three Phase II environmental site assessments in the same corridor.

A brownfields inventory has identified 65 sites throughout the City of Johnstown, many of which are associated with the former steel industry and are likely to

be contaminated by petroleum substances.
This funding will determine the level of contamination at these sites,
and this assessment will help facilitate both clean-up and redevelopment.

Ronald Repak, Executive Director of the Johnstown
Redevelopment Authority said, "The Authority would like to thank the
Congressman's office and the EPA for yet another grant to our Agency.
Implementation of the Brownfield Strategy in the Johnstown Community, and
particularly the Kernville Bio-Tech Corridor Development Project can now
continue. These funds will allow us to help eliminate blight, reuse
contaminated sites and generate more development, jobs and new taxes."

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington, PA

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington
(RACW) will receive \$1,000,000 for two brownfields revolving loan fund
grants. This funding will be used by the
Authority to provide loans and subgrants to support clean-up activities for
sites contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum.

The Authority has identified 135 brownfields sites in the
County, many of which are abandoned steel and zinc works industrial sites with
hazardous materials polluting the water and soil.

Windber, PA

Windber Borough will receive \$200,000 for a community-wide
hazardous substances brownfields assessment grant. Assessments will identify the contaminants
that threaten human health and the environment, and help determine appropriate
site reuse. This funding will be used to
develop an inventory of sites and conduct six Phase I and four Phase II
environmental site assessments throughout the borough.

With the decline of the coal industry, there are many
brownfields sites throughout the borough, and the most widespread environmental
problem is acid mine drainage from these sites.

###