

# Brownfields Funding U. S EPA, Region 5

*Deborah Orr  
August 2011*



**Laidlaw Facility,  
IL**

# Brownfields Definition

“.....real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.”



# Subtitle A. Brownfields Revitalization

## Funding provides \$200 million a year

---

- Authorizes grants of up to \$350K per site for *assessment*, inventory and health assessments.
- Authorizes grants of up to \$200K per site for eligible entities, including not-for-profits, to *clean up* brownfields\*.
- Authorizes grants of up to \$200K for *job training* to eligible entities.
- Authorizes grants for up to \$1M for *revolving loan fund* (RLF) program\*.
- Authorizes targeted brownfields assessments.

\*20% cost share

## Subtitle B. Brownfields Liability Clarifications

---

- **Contiguous Property Owner.** Superfund liability relief for innocent persons who own property that is contaminated solely due to a release from a neighboring property, so long as the person did not cause or contribute to the release.
- **Innocent Landowners.** Provides Superfund Liability relief for landowners who had no reason to know of contamination at the time of purchase.
- **Prospective Purchasers and Windfall Liens.** Provides Superfund liability relief for future buyers of facilities who are not responsible for contamination.

# Subtitle C. State and Tribal Response Programs

- Bars Federal enforcement action for sites in State/Tribal cleanup programs in some circumstances.
- Federal re-openers to ensure safety net (State/Tribal requests, endangerment, new information).
- States/Tribes maintain of sites in response program.
- Provides for progress toward attaining program elements.
- Provides NPL deferral of site in State/Tribal Programs.
- States/Tribes are provided up to \$50 million a year to support brownfields programs.

# East St. Louis Farmers Market



# All Appropriate Inquiries

---

- BF law requires EPA to establish the AAI rule.
- AAI effective date is November 1, 2006
- Property buyers who want CERCLA liability protection and eligible entities that use EPA BF funds are affected by AAI.
- More information on AAI can be found at:

[www.epa.gov.brownfields](http://www.epa.gov.brownfields)

The total funding in the FY2010 competition was 92.9M. EPA anticipated awarding approximately 343 nationally.

## Successful proposals in Region 5 totaled 47

### State

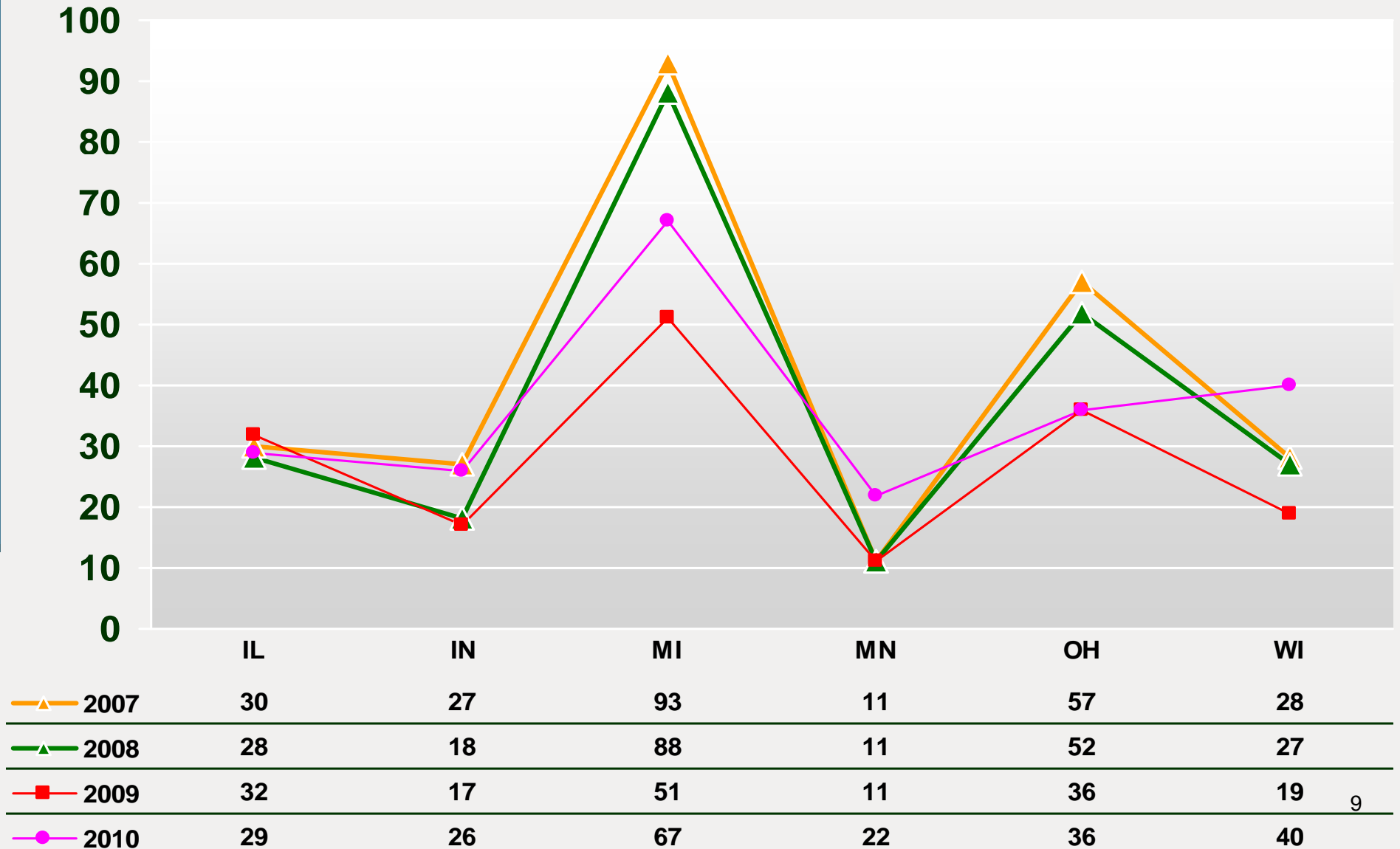
- IL - 11
- IN - 12
- MI - 18
- MN - 13
- OH - 15
- WI - 6
- Tribal -17
- State - 6

### Grant Type

- Assessment - 23
- Cleanup - 20
- RLF - 4
- Job training - 3
- 128(a) - 23

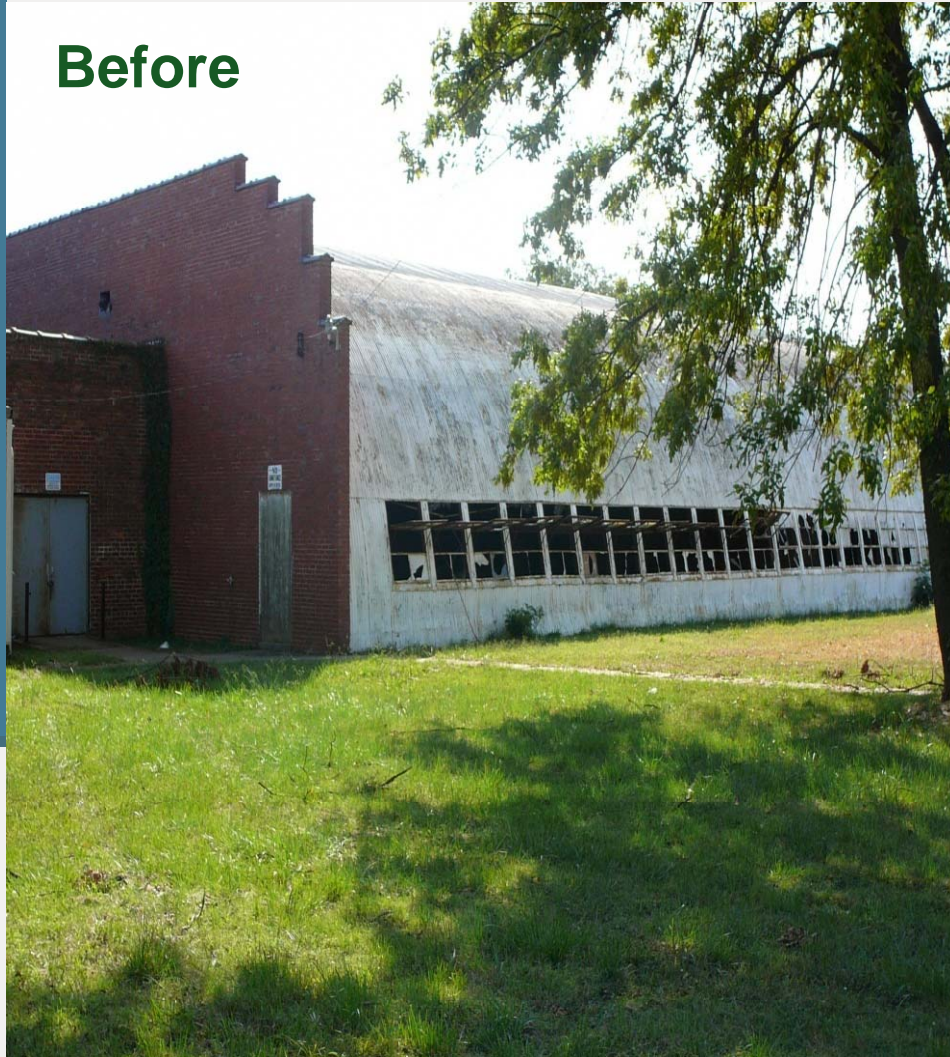


# Number Of R5 BF Proposal By State 2007 - 2010



# Cleanup Success Story: Metropolis, IL Former Laidlaw Facility - 2009

**Before**



**After**

# Brownfields Recognition

## Award

*presented to*

*City of Metropolis, Illinois*

*Quick and efficient cleanup of the Former Laidlaw Facility*

In recognition of leadership and commitment

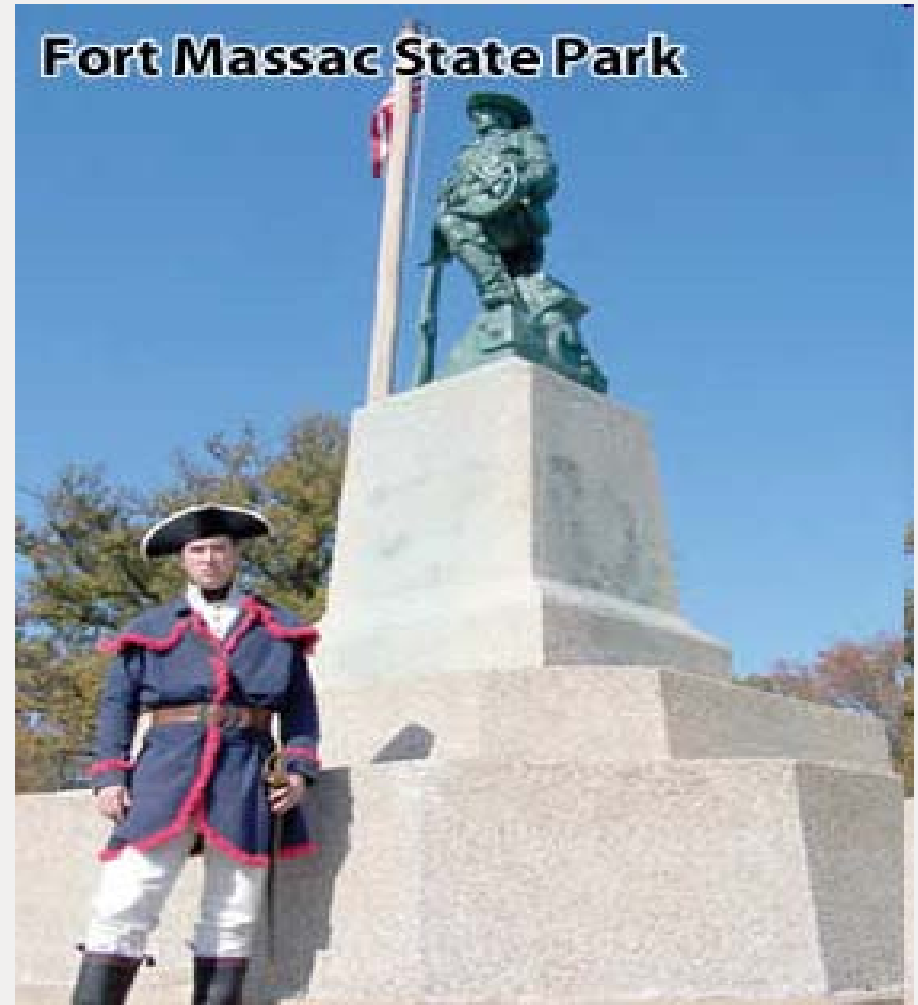
*This 17th day of November 2009*

---

Bharat Mathur  
Acting Regional Administrator  
Region 5, U. S. EPA

# Anatomy of a Success

- Metropolis recognized they had to do something to stop population decline.
- Hired experts.
- Planning was inclusive.
- First step to assist in day to day decisions made on issues concerning tourism development and future growth.



# Lessons Gleaned from Successful Work

---

- Every change needs a champion
- Cast a wide net
- Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning\*
- Coordinate activities to leverage resources
- Look for low hanging fruit
- Planning is an endless loop

\*Thomas Alva Edison

# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

---

## General

- Answer all the questions
- Obey the page limitations and think about the reviewer when formatting
- Budget ceiling debate may impact schedule
- 2011 budget cut by 30% translates to fewer grants
- Point distribution may change

# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

## Community Needs: 20 pts

- Identify “target sites”. This useful strategy helps the applicant identify contaminants that impact a specific population in a community
- Provide information on all coalitions partners even those that do not have target sites identified and explain why the coalition fits
- Impacts to be addressed can either be health or “social” and/or economic
- Connect health effect to the chemicals to be addressed at BF site

# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

---

Community Need: 20 points (cont'd)

- Always provide comparative statistics for the demographic information provided. Explain or interpret the stats for the reviewer, connect the dots
- Impacts to be described include health or “social” and economic. Connect economic impact to the before and after at BF site
- Speak to the lowest common denominator: assume the reviewer knows nothing



# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Project Descriptions: 35 points

- Skin in the game: Quantify in-kind support for the work, even if it is not required
- Document competence at leveraging resources, generic info does not help
- The connection to jobs must be made
- Beware of giving out too much information in the budget
- If it says use the table, use the table
- Treat the state program like a black box
- Panel reviewers do not score programmatic capability questions in “Project Description and Feasibility of Success” ranking criteria

# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

---

## Community Engagement: 20 points

- What part of community based organization don't you understand?
- Support letter should provide an outline of org, what specific activities the org will do to support project and it should be consistent with what is contained in the proposal.
- Tell us about tried and true methods of connecting with the public

# Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

---

Project Benefits: 25 points

- Simply stating the redevelopment has benefits does not make it so. Define what will be measured
- Mention quarterly reports and the ACRES database but also mention what you will measure for success
- Circle back to the community needs section and make sure all are accounted for

# Application Schedule for FY2011 (draft)

---

- Request for Proposal -- August
- Job Training Grant proposals due mid October
- Assessment, Revolving Loan, Cleanup Fund (ARC) proposals -- mid October
- Spring 2012 – Award Announcements
- Fund available before October 1

# USEPA Region 5 Brownfields Contacts

Deborah Orr

Phone: 312.886.7576

E-mail: [orr.deborah@epa.gov](mailto:orr.deborah@epa.gov)

Webpage: [www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields)

