



Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Grant Announcement

May 12, 2022 - In November 2021, the City submitted a grant request in the amount of \$500,000 to conduct cleanup and remediation activities of hazardous substances at 200 Blue Star Highway. We are pleased to announce that the City was successful in its attempt to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Cleanup Grant and will begin working with the EPA to enter into a cooperative agreement to accept the grant. Funds will be available at the start of the federal fiscal year in October 2022, at which time the City will immediately begin working PM Environmental—the City's environmental consultant—to coordinate next steps and develop a schedule to meet the requirements of the grant. Congratulations to the City Council, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and all who participated in the development of the grant application.

This is the City's second attempt to apply for an EPA Brownfield Cleanup grant for 200 Blue Star Highway. The feedback obtained from the City's first grant application focused on including more detail about the concentration and location of the PCB contamination located on the site, as well as including an estimate of the associated removal costs. The PCBs are mostly concentrated under the northern section of the former building, which includes the cement floor, underlying soil, and northerly concrete block wall. As a result of this feedback, the City began working with the EPA's, Region 5, Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) group to assist with conducting additional assessment activities within these locations. As such, EPA will utilize their TBA program to employ their own professional services to undertake the additional sampling activities needed to supplement the existing information. Once complete, the information will be used to develop a cleanup workplan, which is the initial step of the cleanup process that is funded by the grant. A workplan will have to meet the standards of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Subpart D Cleanup Standard.

As a commitment to the redevelopment of the site, the City of Douglas selected Melching Demolition, after a competitive bid process, to conduct demolition activities of the above grade structure in the fall of 2021.

With the announcement of the grant, the tentative next steps over the coming year will be to:

- Summer 2022 – Prepare a work plan in support of the cooperative agreement between the City and EPA.
- September 2022 – Enter into a cooperative agreement between the EPA and the City of Douglas
- Fall 2022 – Community involvement and outreach
- Summer 2023 – Prepare and submit TSCA Cleanup Plan

The City will also be concurrently working with the State of Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to address state regulated substances. Trichlorethylene (TCE) is a volatile organic compound used in industrial and commercial processes and exist on site from a prior manufacturing facility. TCE's fall under EGLE regulation and are handled separately from federally regulated substances like PCB's. The EPA's Brownfield Cleanup grant will not address TCE's; however, grants from EGLE will be sought to address TCE's.