



For immediate release:

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ADEM Awarded \$200,000 Brownfields Grant from EPA

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has been awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields grant to continue assessment of former industrial and commercial sites along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the grant on April 21, which will be used along a U.S. Highway 80 corridor stretching from Uniontown, in Perry County, to Montgomery.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. ADEM will use the funds to assess sites where underground storage tanks may have caused a release of gasoline or oil products, assisting local governments in turning the areas from problem properties to productive community use.

Over the last two years, ADEM and EPA have successfully partnered in efforts to raise awareness of petroleum Brownfields sites along the Trail. The two agencies have conducted outreach meetings to gather input from community groups in Hayneville, west Montgomery, Selma, and Selmont on the public's visions for redevelopment and revitalization. Numerous other federal and state agencies are working together to coordinate efforts to revitalize the area where high unemployment and poor economic conditions prevail. The new assessment grant will be used to further the work already initiated to enhance the opportunities for economic growth in the Black Belt.

On May 14, a ceremony was held in Montgomery at a site along the Voting Rights Trail. Attending the ceremony was Stanley Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 4 in Atlanta, who presented the grant award to ADEM.

The Department will use the grant to further its efforts to improve the environment in economically depressed areas and will continue working with local officials in Montgomery, Lowndes, Dallas, and Perry counties to select sites where redevelopment will enhance communities.

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