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EPA Encourages CMOM Approach

The USEPA prepared a Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) Guide to encourage a CMOM approach for implementing the performance-based strategy for sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) national priority.

This Guidance is a compliance monitoring tool for federal and state inspectors and a compliance assistance tool for those being regulated: owners or operators of sewer systems collecting domestic sewage. The Guidance is also for use by

consultants or third-party evaluators or compliance assistance providers.

The Guidance identifies criteria used by EPA inspectors to evaluate a collection system's management, operation and maintenance program activities. Owners/operators can review their own systems against the checklist to reduce the occurrence of sewer overflows and improve or maintain compliance. Additionally, having key board members/policymakers read this Guidance also will allow them to better understand the

benefits of investing in a good CMOM program

The CMOM Guidance is available at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/sso> (click on the "fact sheets" line under "Other Information" and www.epa.gov/clearing-house.) A limited number of paper copies is being made available through the National Service Center for Environmental Publications 1-800-490-9198 and the Office of Water Resource Center (202)564-0697.

Contact Sharie Centilla, EPA, at centilla.sharie@epa.gov or (202)564-0697 with questions.

Inside this issue

- I say goodbye to the work I love, p. 2
- Improvement in Nebraska — A Success Story, p. 4
- Brownfields on the Prairie?, p. 6
- Midwest Assistance Program Staff Directory, p. 7



WaterLog

Ken Bruzelius, MAP CEO, retired in August

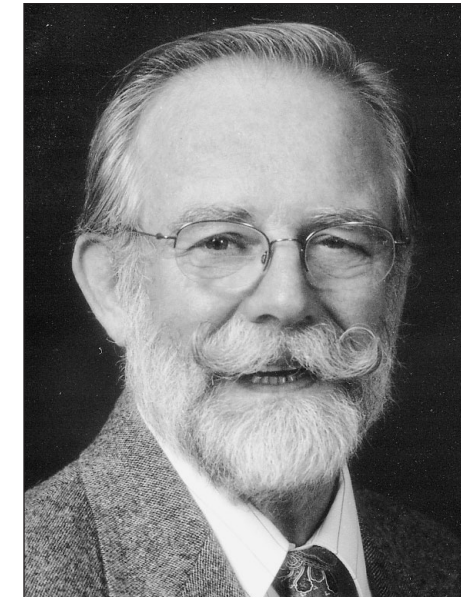
Ken Bruzelius retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) in August 2005 after 26 years of leadership to our organization. Ken was one of the original founders.

Upon Ken's tenure, MAP looks over its vast accomplishments. MAP opened its doors as a multi-state service agency with a central office in Pierre, South Dakota. MAP's first role was to provide technical training for local community action agencies and they, in turn, served as technical resources to communities experiencing water or wastewater problems. The Health and Human Services Community Services Administration, now the Office of Community Services, provided funding to MAP.

Responding to the need to improve local infrastructure, MAP's activities soon shifted to transferring knowledge directly to local governments, helping local leaders assess their unique community needs and provide connection with funding resources — including assistance to complete funding applications and ultimately, install or upgrade water and sewer services.

In 1981, Ken, along with the MAP Board, relocated the central office to New Prague, Minnesota. The primary mechanism for helping small communities was, and still is, through on-site technical assistance and training.

While Ken has made numerous accomplishments, it is his vision to establish a



Ken Bruzelius, MAP's retiring CEO, was one of eight individuals that founded the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.

field-based approach to provide technical assistance that will be most remembered. Today, between two and four rural development specialists live in each of the nine states.

Field-based staff tailor technical assistance to each community. Utilizing a capacity-building approach, skills are transferred to community leaders from MAP professionals. MAP works with community leaders, building their capacity to address local problems and generate feasible solutions.

While Ken built MAP into a thriving

organization, he also worked in collaboration with a network of other non-profit organizations and public agencies. MAP became one of six federally-funded, regional programs called the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) to operate rural water and wastewater assistance programs.

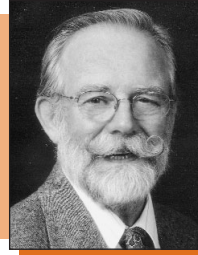
The RCAP regional partners include six regional technical assistance resource centers and the national office in Washington, DC. National and regional programs expanded with help from federal, state and local resources. Project communities often grow beyond initial assistance and resources that MAP provides by linkages with state agencies, consultants and engineers. These kinds of successful public and private partnerships foster project outcomes that often exceed the expectations of communities and funding sources.

In 1987, the scope of MAP's technical assistance expanded to include solid waste management and market development activities. Solid waste technical assistance ranges from establishing unit based pricing programs to helping communities and reservations write and implement solid waste management plans.

A central office building project was initiated in 2001, and completed in early 2002. The office building provides a permanent corporate headquarters after renting space for over 22 years. The central office provides administrative support to *Continued on page 3*

Visit our Web Site! <http://www.map-inc.org>

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C.E.O. Report

I say goodbye to the work I love

Wonderful advancements often come about slowly but steadily, while other changes spring into being as though a dark night has turned to a bright day! Through the past 26 years, I have seen both. Working with communities, day in and day out, MAP sees the slow and significant benefit that improved management generates; while other communities give birth to completely new drinking water and wastewater facilities. The results help rural America become a place where more and more of us wish to reside, make our livelihood, raise our families and retire!

Recently, a national weekly news magazine described the efforts of some rural areas within Midwestern states where donated land was given to newcomers with the hope of generating growth and economic stability. Some efforts had limited success. However, I have seen significant economic changes where communities have taken on the difficult task of improving their quality of life by creating and supporting the underlying foundation of growth: water, wastewater, and other vital infrastructure.

The dynamics of change in rural America has begun but is certainly not complete! MAP, and other organizations of rural character, have an opportunity and responsibility to continue supporting the vision of a better, brighter and more prosperous rural America.

So I am extremely pleased to give the leadership of MAP to Mary Beth Schmidt who will assume the challenge this month! I leave her with an extremely bright, talented, and entrepreneurial staff, a network of national partners, and a board of directors who give support and opportunity to the organization's vision. But, even more, I give her the rural client base of communities who are always seeking ways to improve their way of life while taking responsibility for the health and vitality of their environment.

MAP's board of directors has always given me and staff the strongest of support and the challenge of doing our best. I have found great strength in believing they supported me, even sometimes when I wondered if I should believe myself! And I have been blessed with staff who have worked and lived through the trying times and benefited from the strength that we gained from each other.

I cannot take the space to name each staff person, but I must

name some! Judy Sass was my first staff person and MAP's second employee. She has provided strength of thought, emotion, a determination to see MAP excel in our weakest situations, and helped to create our strongest opportunities. Joe Dvorak was a founder of MAP, an example of how our technical assistance could assist communities and confound the state and federal agencies into knowing "it really works". Linda Cyrus proves the right approach can move mountains out of the way and move money into the way. There is no better teacher than Art May. He brings the greatest breadth of wisdom with the most practical application in a way that is heard and received by everyone! I wish I could take the time to speak of all the powerful traits and intricate details of Len, and H.B. and Curt and Mike (several) and R.J. etc., etc. But I will speak only of two more. Hired out of college with a belief that anything was possible, Paula Liepold has become the major spokesperson for MAP. Editing our periodicals, preparing training materials, telling MAP's story and telling the story of community after community in case briefs and news articles is what Paula does; she will gladly tell you the story of MAP. (www.map-inc.org)

Life without organization is impossible. Life with organization and wisdom is almost unheard of. (Of course, I believe in God who provides both!) In similar regard, I appreciate the strength of wisdom, organization and patience that Joyce Anderson brings to MAP. She was hired when MAP moved to New Prague in 1981 and has become a key element in MAP's organizational structure. She organizes the board meetings, guides our human resource relationships, remembers what still needs to be done, and does it with a friendly smile and practical good humor. Two years ago, I fell down the stairs in the middle of the night and spent five weeks hospitalized. Joyce kept MAP on keel and helped me rehabilitate myself after being out for over two months.

So, after 26 years, I say goodbye to the work I love and will observe the continuing work that MAP will do for years to come. I will miss the relationship with partners and the challenge of competitors. I will also miss you!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bruzelius
Chief Executive Officer

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Brownfields on the Prairie?

Is there a brownfield near you or in your community? Do you see an old gas station, old factory or mill, dry cleaner, mine-scarred land, junkyard, railroad facility, wood-treater, former auto dealership or repair facility, illegal drug lab, warehouse, abandoned farm/ranch, agricultural business, public building, etc.

Brownfields is not a reference to dry drought-starved crop lands, but previously used properties where potentially harmful contaminants may be impeding revitalization or reuse of the land or buildings. It is estimated that there are over 450,000 abandoned and contaminated properties across America.

Many people think of the typical brownfield as being in the rust belt of older, industrial America and in urban Northeastern and Midwest states. Communities that served as engines of industry in early America collectively have thousands of abandoned factories, gas stations, and commercial and public structures. What once was a source of pride and jobs is now a legacy of uncontrolled pollution, neglect and blight.

Several factors contribute to a new interest in reuse and redevelopment of the run-down industrial properties and structures. As communities grew, they often didn't have any undisturbed land (green space) for expansion or economic growth. In many cases, available land is at a premium. Rural communities are often landlocked by fertile agricultural lands that have sustained them and are needed for production more than for community expansion.

However, in sparsely populated states, with small communities scattered on rolling prairies, there is often a perception that plenty of green space is available for growth and new development. This produces a lack of interest in investing in reusing older buildings or cleaning up property contaminated by past uses. In addition, there does not appear to be much incentive in investing in older properties in towns that are slowly losing population. There is a proud tradition in farm and ranch communities of using and reusing things as long as possible, and making do with what you have. Such communities place great value and pride in maintaining their heritage and a quality of life that is unique to rural America, and do not necessarily seek growth and development.

There are businesses that thrive in the rural communities as well as businesses

keenly interested in locating in such communities. There is a great desire to revitalize the existing small rural communities and preserve the quality of life that is the life blood of rural America. They often contain old buildings and other structures from past businesses and public uses that have passed their usefulness and may be the source of environmental contamination, health hazards and blight on the community.

Brownfield Law to address adverse impacts

These are the types of problems intended to be addressed by the "Brownfield Law". The EPA Brownfield Grant program provides seed money to assess the environmental conditions of these properties and, with community support, begin the process to clean up and reuse them. The programs and grants authorized under this law are administered by the US EPA Brownfields Program, as well as State and Tribal Brownfield Programs.

The EPA Brownfields Grant Program is a highly competitive and successful EPA national grant program for local communities. The program was originally developed in the mid 1990s to address the many abandoned and underutilized commercial buildings and properties across the country that were not being properly reused or redeveloped due to concerns of contamination by potential developers and/or lenders. These concerns, which could potentially result in financial liabilities exceeding property value, led developers and lenders to prefer "greenfields", (previously unused properties), rather than brownfields (previously used properties).

The goal of EPA's Brownfields Initiative is to empower states, Tribes, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and promote the sustainable reuse of brownfields. Brownfields are defined as: "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." The Brownfields Law of 2002 broadened the definition of a brownfield to include mine-scarred lands, sites contaminated by petroleum or areas polluted by the manufacture illegal drugs (meth labs), but does exclude certain sites from grant funding unless EPA makes a property specific determination.

Brownfields Competitive Grant Opportunities

EPA's Brownfields Program provides financial and technical assistance for brownfields revitalization, including annual competitive grants for environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training. The request for grant proposals is published in the Fall. The types of grants include:

- Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments of the properties, and community outreach.
- Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfields.
- Cleanup Grants provide direct funding for cleanup activities.
- Job Training Grants provide environmental training for residents of brownfields communities that have received assessment grants.

Since the inception of the brownfields program by EPA in 1995, the program has awarded 709 assessment grants totaling over \$190 million, 189 revolving loan fund grants worth more than \$165 million, and \$26.8 million in cleanup grants. The recent Brownfield grants announced included:

- 172 assessment grants worth \$33.6 million
- 106 cleanup grants totaling \$19.3 million
- 13 revolving loan fund grants totaling \$20.8 million; and
- 11 job training grants valued at \$2.2 million

In addition to promoting industrial and commercial redevelopment, brownfields projects have converted industrial waterfronts to riverfront parks, landfills to golf courses, rail corridors to recreational trails, and gas stations sites to housing. EPA's brownfields assistance has led to more than \$7 billion in public and private investment in cleanup and redevelopment, helped create more than 31,000 jobs, and resulted in the assessment of more than 5,100 properties. Most of these included reutilization and investment in related infrastructure as well for water, wastewater and other utilities and services.

For further information go to: http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/archive/pilot_arch.htm, and <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

Written by: Mickey Hartnett
Rural Development Specialist,
South Dakota

Ken Bruzelius, MAP CEO, retired in August

Continued from page 1

the rural development specialists and accountability to funding sources.

In 2003, MAP initiated a community revolving loan fund. With Board support, Ken recently created a financial services subsidiary called the Midwest Assistance Program Loan Fund, Inc. The purpose of the loans is for pre-development, interim financing, gap financing, or equipment. MAP Loan Fund has closed eight loans

totaling over \$100,000 to small, rural communities for short or intermediate term financing for water, wastewater or solid waste projects.

In just the past year, MAP worked with 760 communities under 685 different projects. Of those projects, 536 were startups. MAP worked with 58 Native American communities. MAP's technical assistance reached 565,804 people, of which 42 percent were below the poverty level. MAP conducted 62 workshops,

reaching 1,434 people. A total of \$55,674,282 was leveraged to finance new community infrastructures.

Ken's understanding of rural communities and his dedication to the mission of MAP provided the energy and vitality to sustain MAP over three decades. Under new direction, MAP will continue its dedication to helping communities improve their environment, quality of life and be self-sustaining.

On Ken Bruzelius ...

In 1983, we were at the height, or the depth, of the Reagan era. In response to the Administration's notion that the best way to help poor rural communities gain clean drinking water was to cut funding for Farmers Home Administration grant programs, we worked with the RCAPs to put together a bill, The Rural Water Act of 1982. This legislation restored grant funding and also established a setaside of grant funding for technical assistance.

In the prevailing political environment it was hard to get traction on the bill. We finally got a hearing in the Senate, then controlled by Republicans. We called on our best Republican – Ken – to testify.

The Chair of the Rural Development Subcommittee was Sen. Paula Hawkins from Florida. She would never be mistaken for a rural development advocate.

The environment in the Senate Agriculture Committee room was quite cozy. There is a long table. The Senator sat at the head and witnesses along one side.

Hawkins was the only Senator there and after listening to FmHA drone on about the budget and their version of tough love for rural communities, she turned to Ken.

Ken picked up his glass of water and said, "I want to talk about water and how clean water is hard to get in rural America." This shook Hawkins out of her FmHA-induced stupor and she was amused at Ken's theatrics. But she paid

attention, and in the 1985 Farm Bill most of the provisions of our bill became law. Following that, Congress steadily increased grant funds for water and wastewater financing.

It is well known that Ken is a leader for rural communities in the Midwest. Perhaps not as well known is his flair for theatrics and how he put that to use in Washington to benefit rural communities across the country.

Bob Rapoza
Rapoza Associates
Washington, DC

I've known and worked with Ken on RCAP issues for over 25 years. While there are plenty of antidotes and stories to tell, no single story or incident captures Ken's contribution to the RCAP partnership and to MAP.

Ken is from the Midwest. All substance and no flash...except on the basketball court. And even there one sees steady solid team play waiting patiently for the open shot and then taking it with deadly results!

For as long as I've known Ken, he's been a board member the network could count on; not to just show up, but to be there and be fully engaged in the work at hand. Year in, year out. You knew that Ken would be there, listening intently, asking questions, contributing to the discussion and decision-making.

And equally important carrying his full share of the work load. In crisis, Ken could be counted on as a steadying influence, always ready to move the dis-

ussion to "okay, so what are we going to do?" Ken was not one to be first on the block to try something new, but at the same time he was consistently leading the charge to broaden the partnership's base of support in order to secure the future of the partnership and MAP.

Ken has been a significant force in shaping and growing the national partnership for over two and one-half decades. He is the ultimate team player...with a deadly three point shot.

And that has made all the difference in the world to literally thousands of small town and rural families across the Midwest whose water systems have come to rely on MAP for assistance to insure an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water.

Ken exemplifies the idea of quietly making a difference.

John Squires, CEO
Community Resource Group
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Ken has been the face I associate with MAP for as long as I can remember and his leadership was always focused on partnering and helping low-income rural residents. Rural folks know how to share ideas that work, how to work hard and how to help each other. I'm guessing that when Ken was growing-up near Northome, Minnesota, he learned allot of those skills. Ken is truly one of us rural folks.

Jim Maras, Director of Water Programs
USDA, Rural Development
Washington, DC

Improvement in Nebraska — A Success Story

Every year in Nebraska, the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure (NHHS R&L) field staff conduct hundreds of routine sanitary surveys (RSS) of Nebraska's public water supply systems (PWS). During the surveys, field staff look for conditions at the respective water systems that may present a real or potential threat to public health¹, or that are not in compliance with Title 179 Rules and Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems².

When these conditions are found they are noted as deficiencies on a RSS letter that is sent to the PWS. Approximately one-third of all community and non-transient non-community public water systems and one-fifth of all transient non-community public water systems are inspected each year.

NHHS R&L field staff also perform follow-up sanitary surveys on at least five

percent of all RSS to verify that indeed the identified deficiencies have been corrected or to check on systems that may not have responded to the deficiency letter that is sent to the system after the survey is completed.

The figures (below) give a comparison between calendar years 2003 and 2004 with respect to the number of RSS performed, the severity and number of deficiencies found.

The numbers were obtained from Nebraska's Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) database on May 25, 2005. This database is maintained by NHHS R&L personnel on a continuous basis.

The basic indication derived from these numbers is that the water systems in Nebraska have improved their overall operation and maintenance. Nebraska's

Capacity Development program, which is the cornerstone of the NHHS R&L operation, and Nebraska's 2% Technical Assistance Team partners (NHHS R&L, Nebraska Rural Water Association, Midwest Assistance Program, Nebraska Environmental Training Center - Hastings, Nebraska Section American Water Works Association and the League of Nebraska Municipalities) are the main reasons for the overall decrease in the number of deficiencies found during the performance of RSS by NHHS R&L field staff.

Through the provision of technical assistance and training provided by these same partners the water system owners and operators have become better educated as to the requirements they have to comply with. This in turn allows them to make better business decisions and to run their water systems more efficiently and effectively with fewer problems.

Footnotes:

1 - Deficiencies that may have a real or potential adverse impact on public health are considered significant in nature. Examples of significant deficiencies are missing screens on well casing vents, storage tank access covers not being sealed, etc..

2 - Deficiencies that do not have a real or potential adverse impact on public health are considered minor in nature. Examples of minor deficiencies are paperwork, recordkeeping etc.. A minor deficiency may become a significant deficiency if the PWS does not correct the deficiency and the same deficiency is found on subsequent surveys.

3 - An increase in the number of Minor deficiencies was seen overall and specifically for Community PWS mainly because of the revision of Title 179 NAC 22 Operations and Maintenance regulations. These revisions required a substantial increase in paperwork and record-keeping requirements. These revisions went into effect in March 2004.

By Doug Woodbeck
NHHS R&L Field Services
Program Manager

Red Bud Lake Improvement District Receives MAP Loan

The Midwest Assistance Program Loan Fund (MAPLF) approved a \$4,000 loan to the Red Bud Lake Improvement District, located in Abilene, Kansas. This loan request is to fund the Preliminary Engineering Report needed to continue the application process with USDA Rural Development to construct and install a new water and sewer system.

Antiquated water and wastewater systems, consisting mostly of individual septic systems, need to be replaced, as indicated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). KDHE identified the community as a "probable" contributor of groundwater contamination, mostly due to the close proximity of the failing septic systems. The improvement district recently took over operations of the water

system. For many years, it was managed by the Red Bud Lake Association.

The district approved a \$5M property tax levy against all properties within the improvement district. The levy will remain on a permanent basis as they expect it will be absorbed within a much larger levy that would be needed once the bonding process has been put in place for permanent project funding.

In order to meet USDA requirements, the improvement district worked with the Red Bud Lake Association to gather the easements to all properties so that hookup may take place, and to provide proof that they have control of the property. This may require a lease agreement between the parties. The lake association has been

very helpful in working with the improvement district to complete these tasks. This community has a population of 64 and 50 water/sewer connections.

MAP's Rural Development Specialist, Phillip Fishburn, is working closely with the district to plan and implement this project. The loan application to the MAPLF was the result of a referral by Phillip as he realized the role the MAPLF could play to further this project towards completion.

Contact Tom Kopp, loan fund manager, (952-758-7334) to find out how Midwest Assistance Program's loan fund might help your community.

MAP Loan Fund wins support of Treasury Department

The Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund selected the Midwest Assistance Program Revolving Loan Fund application for funding under their Technical Assistance Program. The award is \$45,600.

The Midwest Assistance Program Loan Fund (MAPLF) is a newly-formed CDFI subsidiary of the Midwest Assistance Program, which has helped rural communities develop community water, wastewater and solid waste management systems for more than 25 years. Founded in 2003, MAPLF is dedicated to offering below-market rate loans to low-income, rural communities for water system pre-development activities.

This unique predevelopment loan product helps communities leverage other state and federal infrastructure funding sources in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. MAPLF will use the award \$45,600 to perform a market assessment, finalize loan product development, update technology, train staff, and conduct its first audit.

"I am pleased that the MAPLF has received this funding," said Senator Norm Coleman. "These funds will help MAPLF continue to serve low-income communities in building their infrastructure. This funding shares the goal of my Rural Renaissance II Act, which aims to improve rural infrastructure in order to increase economic development. There is a significant need for water system improvements and I commend the Department of Treasury for recognizing the importance of this funding."

The CDFI Fund announced that over \$2 million is being awarded to 41 organizations under the Technical Assistance Component of the CDFI Program. Recipients are community-based organizations that provide critically needed financial products and services to economically disadvantaged people and communities.

For more information on the Midwest Assistance Program Loan Fund, contact Tom Kopp, loan fund manager at tkmap@bevcomm.net or 952-758-4334.

	2003	2004	% difference
Total Number of RSS	373	386	+3%
Community	193	211	+9%
NTNC	49	55	+12%
TNC	131	120	-8%
Total Follow-up RSS	30	68	+126%
Community	16	31	+94%
NTNC	3	13	+333%
TNC	11	24	+118%
Total Number of Def.	1549	1443	-7%
Community	981	1031	+5%
NTNC	257	188	-27%
TNC	311	224	-28%
Significant vs. minor deficiencies:			
Total Sig. Def.	1455	1137	-22%
Total Min. Def.	226	306	+35% ³
Significant vs. minor deficiencies by PWS type:			
Community Sig.	849	797	-6%
Community Min.	132	234	+77% ³
NTNC Sig.	221	155	-30%
NTNC Min.	36	33	-8%
TNC Sig.	253	185	-27%
TNC Min.	58	39	-33%
Ave. # of def. per RSS:	4.2	3.7	-12%
Average number of deficiencies per RSS by PWS type:			
Community	5.1	4.9	-4%
NTNC	5.2	3.4	-35%
TNC	2.4	1.9	-21%

Brownfields Law

The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 (aka "The Brownfields Law") authorized up to \$250 million annually for brownfield grants to address abandoned and contaminated properties. Grants are awarded annually through a competitive application process.

On May 10, 2005, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced \$75.9 million in grants to be awarded to 218 applicants, including three tribal nations, in 44 states for brownfield grants to help revitalize former industrial and commercial properties and transform them from problem properties into community assets. "The Brownfields Program puts both property and people back to work," EPA Administrator Steve Johnson said. "These grants will help communities across America convert eyesores into engines of economic rebirth."