

## Licking River Bank Stabilization

### *Cleanup of Former Newark Processing Site*

#### **Cleared for Redevelopment**

Ohio EPA has cleared the former Newark Processing property (1367 E. Main St.) for redevelopment, after targeting the 66-acre site as one of the state's top priority projects and helping address stockpiled aluminum dross at the site.

Thanks to the voluntary efforts of the city of Newark to investigate and remediate the site under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP), Ohio EPA has issued the property a covenant not to sue that protects the property's owners or operators and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further environmental investigation and remediation. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the covenant.

Ohio EPA's investment of \$2.8 million for a bank stabilization project helped protect the Licking River and prevent exposure to the solid waste at the site. It also enabled the city of Newark to obtain the property for re-development.

#### **Background**

Newark Processing was a secondary aluminum recycling facility that began operating in 1980 on a site adjacent to the Licking River east of downtown Newark. The facility processed aluminum dross, a byproduct of primary and secondary aluminum smelting. Dross consists of varying concentrations of aluminum, aluminum oxides, ammonia, free metals and salts. During the 1980s and 1990s, Ohio EPA conducted several environmental investigations at the site, and took enforcement action in 1988. The facility ceased operations in 1996 and filed for bankruptcy. The city of Newark used \$300,000 from the bankruptcy to conduct a site evaluation.

During a site evaluation in 2004, Ohio EPA noted that the Licking River was beginning to erode into the aluminum dross. Approximately 175,000 tons of unstable aluminum dross and 374,000 tons of dross fines sludge were stockpiled at the site. Attempts by Newark Processing to stabilize the bank were not successful.

#### **Stabilization Project**

Ohio EPA targeted the Licking River bank stabilization as a priority project in 2005 with \$2.8 million from the state's Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed and constructed the project for less than \$2.3 million. These savings allowed Ohio EPA and the Corps to also stabilize the bank of nearby Shawnee Run to further protect the environmental integrity of the Licking River and help the local economy by preparing the site for redevelopment.



*The completed Licking River Bank Stabilization project.*



*This is the Licking River bank behind the former Newark Processing facility. The extent of erosion is clearly visible when comparing the photo above (May 2006) to the one below (February 2007). The wellhead visible in these photos was lost to erosion shortly thereafter.*



## Licking River Bank Stabilization

In July 2008, Ohio EPA and the Corps stabilized the river banks. The project included:

- pushing back piles of dross from the Licking River bank along 1,600 feet where erosion had been most severe;
- removing vegetation, rubble, drift and other debris;
- placing stone to protect the river and Shawnee Run access road;
- constructing an access road and a new culvert over Shawnee Run;
- installing a security fence; and re-vegetating the river bank.

### Voluntary Cleanup

The city of Newark acquired the property in 2010 and intends to use it as open space while considering other options to attract new development and jobs to the area. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, the city hired a certified environmental professional to assess the site, identify any areas of concern and remediate any contamination on the property to a level that allows for commercial/industrial development and restricted ground water use.

### Ohio's Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund

Funding for this project came from the state's Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund. Eligibility criteria for funding includes:

- 1) the party responsible for the pollution is not available or not able to pay for the cleanup;
- 2) an analysis of the site clearly shows what cleanup is needed; and
- 3) the cleanup is affordable with the funding available.

### Contact

For more information, contact Fred Myers at [fred.myers@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:fred.myers@epa.ohio.gov) or (614) 728-3778. For additional before and after photographs of the Licking River bank stabilization project, go to: [epa.ohio.gov/cdo/newark\\_processing.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/cdo/newark_processing.aspx).



*The bank along nearby Shawnee Run had also been eroding but was stabilized thanks to Ohio EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

