

**FOR RELEASE:** April 12, 2010  
**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mike Settles (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

## **Cuyahoga County Property is Cleaned Up Under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program**

Through the voluntary efforts of Warrensville Heights, a city brownfield has been investigated, cleaned and is ready for redevelopment.

Ohio EPA has issued a covenant not to sue to Warrensville Heights for cleaning up a 16-acre site located at 4417 and 4435 Northfield Road. The covenant not to sue completes the city's participation in Ohio EPA's voluntary action program (VAP), where property owners take the initiative to clean up on-site contamination.

The property once housed a variety of commercial activities including a grocery store, bowling alley, furniture store, pharmacy and a department store with an auto repair facility. In 2003, Warrensville Heights received a Clean Ohio Revitalization Grant to remove asbestos and demolish the buildings. Following standards developed by Ohio EPA, the city also hired a certified environmental professional to assess the property and remove contaminated soils.

A covenant not to sue protects the property owner or operator and future owners from being legally responsible to the State of Ohio for further investigation and cleanup. This protection applies only when the property is used and maintained in the same manner as when the covenant was issued.

In the 14 years since Ohio EPA issued the first covenant under VAP, more than 4,350 acres of blighted land have been revitalized at more than 260 sites across the state. For more information on the VAP program and the properties cleaned, visit:

[www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/volunt/volunt.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/volunt/volunt.aspx).