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REGION 6 NEWS

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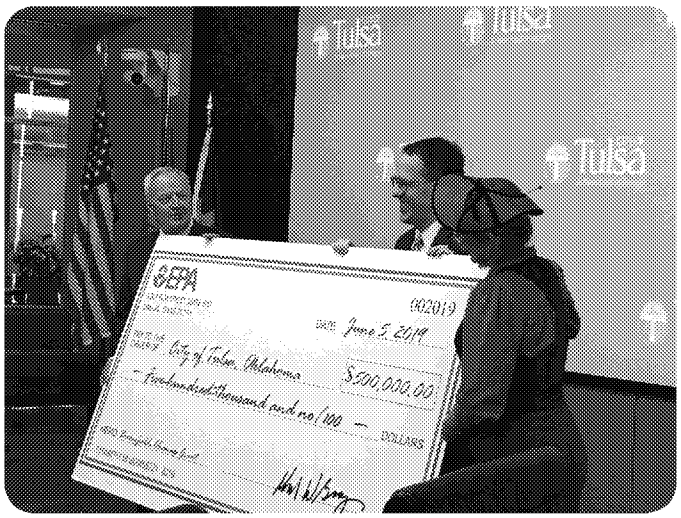
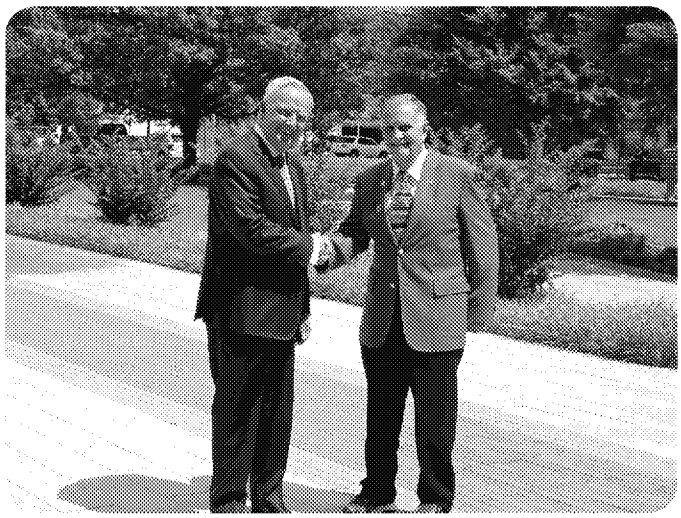
Brownfields Program Announces Two Oklahoma Cities as a 2019 Award Recipient



Mayor G.T. Bynum, Tulsa, Oklahoma, receiving a ceremonial check for a $500,000 for their 2019 Brownfields Cleanup Grant from Acting RA David Gray.



Acting RA David Gray congratulates Larry McAtee, Vice Mayor of Oklahoma City on their selection for a $300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant.

Acting Regional Administrator David Gray attended two Brownfields Grant Announcements on Wednesday, June 5, accompanied by Paul Johnson and Denise Williams, Region 6 National Competition Co-Leads. Gray presented a symbolic "big check" to Tulsa, marking its selection for a $500,000 2019 Brownfields cleanup grant, which will be used for Air Force Plant #3, located in an Opportunity Zone. He then travelled to Oklahoma City, to announce its selection for a $300,000 2019 Brownfields cleanup grant.

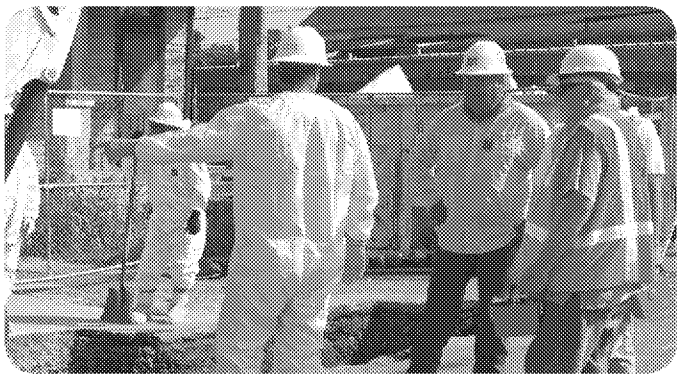
Region 6 New Hires Take Field Trip to Superfund Reuse Site in Dallas

On Monday June 3, 2019, the Onboarding Coordinator Terry Roundtree and Amber Howard of the Superfund Division took our recent new hires on a field trip to the Trinity Grove Superfund Reuse site (RSR) in West Dallas. RSR is part of a residential and commercial area in West Dallas that included a former lead smelter, several landfills and a large area investigated for lead contamination. Early studies confirmed high blood-lead levels for residents and children living near the smelter. Areas targeted for clean-up were the smelter facility, area landfills and affected residential areas and parks. EPA and the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) cleaned up over 400 properties from 1991 to 1994 and, in 1995, EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL). Remediation of these targeted areas resulted in lowered blood-lead levels for children and residents living in West Dallas and also f acilitated a highly successful redevelopment that included construction of DHA Headquarters, single-family, multi-family and senior residential units, restaurants as well as a nursing facility for seniors.

Front Row L-R: Jonathan Ehrhart, Karolina Ruan-Lei, Amber Howard, Amber Davis Second Row L-R: Terry Roundtree, Erik Christianson, Brian Dye, Matias Fernandez, Arron Korir, Elizabeth Layton.

Our new hires have spent several months listening to formal and informal presentations by the Divisions and special interest groups. On Monday, they got a chance to spend a few hours away from the office to see the work that EPA does in the Region and in our communities.

EPA Completes Removal Action in Lowerline, La.



EPA crews excavating Lowerline Street in New Orleans.

Lowerline Street, New Orleans, LA — It was probably 70 years ago when the problem in the Gert Town neighborhood of New Orleans was created. At least that is when the City paved over the radioactive material in the middle of residential Lowerline Street. Radium-226 (Ra-226) is mixed in with the original oyster shells that made up the road. Records show that New Orleans originally paved the road in the late 1940s. The hotspot was discovered when by the Department of Energy (DOE) a few years back and the City was informed. The City attempted to remove the hotspot but after removing it, several more areas of elevated radioactivity were identified.

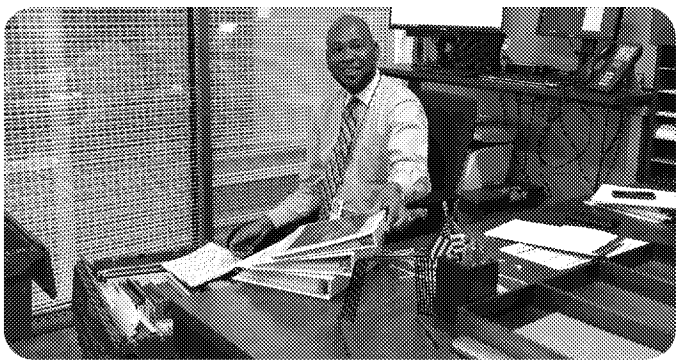
The City and State sought assistance from EPA. EPA's assessment showed elevated levels of gamma radiation over about half of the 3400 block of Lowerline. On-Scene Coordinator Greg Fife led the Removal Action where five areas on the street were excavated. To insure the safety of the residents, air samplers were deployed at the perimeters of the Site and direct-read dosimeters were deployed alongside. The EPA crew had several meters closely monitoring the radiation from the excavation and the special lock-tight transportation containers. About 100 cubic yards of soil were removed for disposal.

EPA coordinated with the City and State to inform the residents about the situation. Our own R6 Community Involvement Coordinator, Janetta Coats, worked together with the City of New Orleans Community Relations Coordinator to visit with residents at their homes, meet with the congregation at the adjacent church and send informational flyers.

Employee Viewpoint Survey 2019

Thank you to the Air and Radiation Division front office (Wren Stenger, Lisa Price, and Tomika McGee) for taking the EVS! Please take a few minutes to share your feedback. Just look for an email from EVEP@opm.gov with the subject line: "The 2019 OPM FEVS: Empowering Employees. Inspiring Change."

New Building Preparation



Phase 1 of the move is complete! Thank you so much to everyone from the 7th and the 13th floor for their good attitude and patience throughout the process. This week, the 11th floor is moving. Please continue to refer to the email from David Gray on May 22, 2019, to find the **Packing Your Workplace** guide. The guide provides specific information on how to pack up your workstation or office. If you have questions, please reach out to your Relocation Action Team (RAT) representative.

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