

# West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center

January – June 2010 Newsletter

*Marshall University's West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center (WVBAC) is a state-mandated program within Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS), Serving 22 Southern West Virginia Counties*

## ***New EPA Brownfield Grants Awarded to Three West Virginia Communities and Department of Environmental Protection***

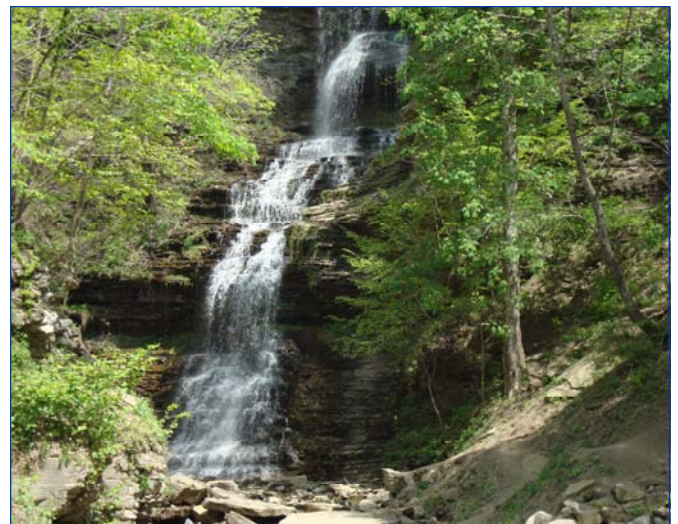
West Virginia continues to benefit from the EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program, the latest success coming from awards totaling \$800,000, divided among three communities and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Division of Land Restoration. Fayette County Commission received a \$200,000 assessment grant to inventory, prioritize redevelopment and start assessment activities on an estimated 400 abandoned / vacant properties, utilizing their Dilapidated Building Program as the lead agency. The towns of Oak Hill and Mt. Hope are targeted areas for these efforts, with additional work focusing on the area near the forthcoming Bechtel Boy Scout Reserve, an extensive camping complex to be built in the Mt. Hope / New River Gorge region.

The City of Nitro has been awarded a \$200,000 assessment grant to continue assessment of properties in the area. Nitro has been assessing sites under its current EPA assessment grant, documenting 54 abandoned / underutilized sites, totaling over 800 acres.

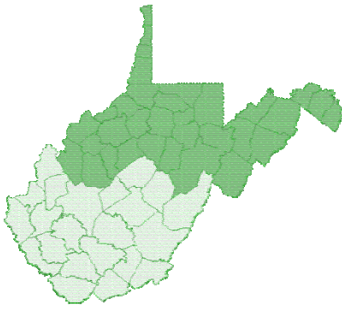
The City of Parkersburg has received a \$200,000 assessment grant to inventory and begin environmental assessment activities on select properties within the

City. This grant is the second EPA brownfield grant Parkersburg has received, the previous one used specifically for petroleum site assessments.

The WVDEP's Division of Land Restoration has been awarded a \$200,000 grant for assessment-related activities at former petroleum properties. While the grant can be used statewide, the focus of these efforts will occur along the 119-mile Midland Trail, a National Scenic Byway located on Rt. 60 between South Charleston and the Virginia border. Former service station properties will be of primary focus. The Midland Trail is looking for sites to use for historical interpretive stops, roadside parks, and related trail development needs.



*Scenic Roadside Waterfall in the Historic Town of Gauley Bridge, Located in Fayette County along the Midland Trail*



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# Check Presentations Made to West Virginia Communities as Part of FOCUS Grants Program

The Foundation for Overcoming Challenges and Utilizing Strengths (FOCUS) is a program which provides up to \$5,000 in seed funding plus site redevelopment support to spur the completion of community-based brownfields projects throughout West Virginia. Funding for these projects, which is open for various government affiliates and non-profit organizations, is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum foundation, and is administered by the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center (NBAC). The WVBAC at Marshall University partnered with NBAC to assist WV communities in applying for these funds. In February of 2010, the second round of grant announcements were made, which included five WV communities in the WVBAC service area. These five grantees are:

1. Coal Heritage Discovery Center, Coal Heritage Highway Authority, Mt. Hope, Fayette County

2. Horse Creek Lake, upper Guyandotte Watershed Association, Wyoming County

3. J.G. Bradley Campground, Central Appalachian Empowerment Zone, Clay, Clay County

4. Environmental Education Learning Center, Morris Creek Watershed Association, Montgomery, Fayette / Kanawha County

5. Reiss-Viking Redevelopment, Webster County Economic Development Authority, Camden on Gauley, Webster County

George Carico, coordinator of the WVBAC at Marshall University, said “we’re pleased with the FOCUS grants that have been awarded to the well-deserving folks in central and southern West Virginia, and we’re anticipating a great return on investment from these seed

grants. We are also appreciative of the investments being made in our communities by the Benedum Foundation, and special thanks to the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center at WVU for their assistance and extensive support”.

*“we’re anticipating a great return on investment from these seed grants”*



*Christie Bailey, Executive Director of the Coal Heritage Highway Authority, and Mayor Michael Martin of Mt. Hope, are presented with a \$5,000 FOCUS check to develop a business plan for the future Coal Heritage Discovery Center in Mt. Hope.*

## WV Brownfields Assistance Centers win WVDEP Environmental Award

The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (WVBAC) at Marshall University, in partnership with the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center at West Virginia University, have jointly received the 2010 *Environmental Partnership Award* from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. This award is one of forty awards given by Governor Joe Manchin and WVDEP Secretary Randy Huffman, as part of the 10th Environmental Awards Ceremony. Awards are given by WVDEP personnel to entities that are striving to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors, and/or educate the state’s citizens. The WV Brownfields Assistance Centers were nominated by Ken Ellison, Division of Land Restoration (DLR) Director, and Don Martin, Assistant DLR Director, for their close cooperation with DLR in promoting brownfield redevelopment activities across the State. Dr. Tony Szwilski, Director of the WVBAC at Marshall University, stated “the Brownfields Assistance Centers have been extremely productive and proactive in

working effectively with the principal stakeholders concerned with brownfields and economic development in West Virginia”.



## West Virginia-Based Alternative Energy Research Continues on Brownfield Properties

*“International Coal Group has been a great partner to work with on this wind feasibility study. Surface mine sites could be a valuable resource for future renewable energy production.”*

The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, as part of the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) has successfully begun extensive wind analysis data collection on surface mine properties in WV. Funding for this important research project came jointly from the West Virginia Division of Energy and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Sonic Detection and Ranging (SODAR) equipment is being utilized, which is the latest and most innovative method available for wind analysis related to feasibility studies for commercial or community wind power generation.

An active surface mine operation, operated by International Coal Group in Webster County near the town of Cowan, has been selected as the first site for wind analysis. Personnel from CEGAS installed the SODAR equipment at the site in May of 2010, and plans to leave the

unit at this location for several months for data collection. “International Coal Group has been a great partner to work with on this wind feasibility study”, said Jeff Wood, Energy Development Specialist with the West Virginia Division of Energy. “Surface mine sites could be a valuable resource for future renewable energy production”.

While International Coal Group is currently mining in one area, the SODAR unit is collecting valuable data from a nearby reclaimed ridge top. After it has been determined that sufficient data has been obtained from this site, the SODAR unit will be moved to another surface mine location, the location still to be determined, for the next study.



*Sonic Ranging and Detection Equipment performing wind analysis data collection at International Coal Group's Webster County surface mine complex*

## West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University Moves to New Home

The paint has just been applied, carpet has been installed, and renovations are finally complete for the new home for the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University (WVBAC), a program of the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS). The new offices are located at 1235 6th Avenue, Huntington, at the corner of 6th Avenue and 13th Street. The building, approximately 3,000 square feet, is the former home of Huntington Photo Lab, which operated at this location for many years until its recent closing.

Teresa Buckland, Development and Operations Manager for CEGAS, said “we’ve worked with the owner to transform an empty building into exceptional office space, complete with a high end conference room and all the amenities needed to conduct business in today’s environment”. If you happen to be in Huntington, stop by and see our new space.



*The new home for Marshall University CEGAS and its West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center*

**West Virginia  
Brownfields Assistance  
Center at Marshall  
University**

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Boone Braxton Cabell Clay Fayette Greenbrier  
Kanawha Lincoln Logan Mason McDowell

***West Virginia Brownfields Assistance  
Center at Marshall University***

***“Community Revitalization,  
one site at a time”***

Mercer Mingo Monroe Nicholas Pocahontas  
Putnam Raleigh Summers Wayne  
Webster Wyoming

**Brownfield resources available at  
[www.wvbrownfields.com](http://www.wvbrownfields.com)**

**2010 WV Brownfields Conference  
Scheduled for Sept. 8 - 9th in  
Charleston**

The 5th Annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference is scheduled for September 8th and 9th at the Marriott Town Center in Charleston. The theme of this year's conference is "Perspectives of Potential", and features a variety of sessions, including numerous case studies from across the state. Among many sessions and activities scheduled, Region III EPA Brownfields representatives will be conducting a session on applying for EPA brownfields cleanup funding, and WVBAC representatives will be hosting a session on how targeted brownfields assessments can benefit local communities. This year's event, expected to draw between 150 and 200 participants, will include a reception on the evening of September 8th, and a keynote address by Brooks McCabe, Kanawha County State Senator and Real Estate professional. As in previous years, the event will include technical training for WV Licensed Remediation Specialists, and plenty of information for various professionals and economic developers dealing with brownfields.

Exhibitor space and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Visit the West Virginia Brownfields website at [www.wvbrownfields.org](http://www.wvbrownfields.org) for registration and additional conference details. Hope to see you in Charleston this September.

**WVBAC Participates in 2010 Miners' Celebration**

The WVBAC continues to spread the word about brownfield redevelopment opportunities across the state. In June the WVBAC participated in the 2010 Miners' Celebration at Glad Springs Resort near Beckley, as part of a panel discussion on alternative reuse of surface mine land. The panel included presentations and discussions on a wide variety of surface mine reuse topics, including renewable energy research on wind, bio-mass, and solar, establishment of bee hives and related business opportunities, and innovative reforestation practices.



*Governor Joe Manchin provided opening remarks for the  
2010 Miners Celebration*