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News Release

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Circleville Identifies First Brownfield Assessment Project

Circleville, Ohio – J.E. Peters, Inc. was selected as the City of Circleville's first recipient of U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment program assistance for environmental assessment at its 327 East Mill Street property. The site, owned by Ed Peters through Peters Mill Street LLC, was home to a mill for several decades, most recently the Manna Pro mill, until it was largely destroyed by a fire in 2008.

Circleville received a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. EPA in 2008 to identify Brownfield properties in the City and cover the cost of conducting environmental assessments for property owners. The City of Circleville and the Pickaway Progress Partnership ("P3") are handling the program's roll-out.

The EPA defines a Brownfield site 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. Most often, Brownfield sites are former industrial properties and gas stations, but can also result from other uses that involve hazardous substances.

One of the primary goals of the program is to provide property owners with assistance that offsets some of the financial challenges associated with cleaning up and redeveloping Brownfield sites. Many of these sites have the potential to be job creating properties once they are free from harmful pollutants. The City and P3 are also able to help property owners apply for federal and state funding to remediate the sites.

According to Mayor Chuck Taylor, "the former mill property is a perfect fit for this program. The site has significant redevelopment potential and our hope is that the Brownfield Assessment grant assistance will help jump start that effort."

The City and P3 are holding informational sessions on the Brownfield Assessment program at 9:00 AM on May 18 and at 11:00 AM on May 26. Both meetings will be held in the meeting room at Circleville Fire Station No. 1, 586 North Court Street. For more information on the program, please contact P3 at 740-420-6498.

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