



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Funds Licking River Bank Stabilization Project in Newark Area

Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski celebrated Earth Day by leading U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Newark officials on a walking tour of the former Newark Processing site today. Director Korleski highlighted the need for the \$2.8 million Licking River bank stabilization project that Ohio EPA is funding at the site, located at 1367-1601 East Main Street, Newark.

The project will stabilize approximately 1,600 feet of bank where erosion has been severe, allowing aluminum waste to slide into the Licking River.

“Ohio EPA’s partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a win-win for the environment and for Newark,” said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. “We are putting our money where our mouth is by funding this project, which will prevent further erosion of aluminum waste into the Licking River and help the local economy by starting to get this site ready for development.”

Newark Processing was a secondary aluminum recycling facility that began operation in 1980 on a 66-acre site adjacent to the river. Operations ceased in 1996. The company processed aluminum dross, which is a by-product of primary and secondary aluminum smelting, to recover any remaining aluminum. The final waste product was deposited over about 20 acres on the site. Some of the waste area abuts the Licking River and in mid-2004, Ohio EPA noticed the river was beginning to erode into part of this stockpiled waste. The waste is not as resistant to erosion as the native soil and prior attempts by Newark Processing to stabilize the bank were breached. Ohio EPA estimates approximately 7,000 square feet of waste has eroded into the river since 2004.

Ohio EPA will provide \$2.8 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will design the bank stabilization features and oversee construction of the project. The work will include removal of vegetation, rubble, drift and other debris; placement of approximately 17,000 tons of stone; placement of about 21,000 cubic yards of granular fill and 500 cubic yards of top soil; and placement of about 6,550 square yards of geotextile fabric in the stone embankment area.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers award a construction contract to a qualified contractor. Work is expected to begin this spring and be completed in early 2008.

The Newark Project is one of four cleanups Ohio EPA is funding. Two cleanups in Marion are completed. The fourth project is a soil remediation project at Ford Brothers Trucking facility in Lawrence County and is scheduled to get underway this summer.

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