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NEWS



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Governor Blagojevich and Illinois EPA to partner with Springfield, Sangamon County and citizens to evaluate potential reuses of Cargill/Pillsbury Mill
Evaluation of Cargill/Pillsbury mill site announced

SPRINGFIELD ---- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and two well-known consulting firms that are experts in brownfields site redevelopment will partner with the City of Springfield, Sangamon County and the Economic Development Council for Springfield and Sangamon County on an evaluation of potential revitalization of a mothballed landmark industrial site, the former Cargill and Pillsbury mills, IEPA Director Doug Scott announced today.

"On behalf of Governor Rod Blagojevich, whose innovative Opportunity Returns economic development initiative includes a strong commitment to brownfields or abandoned industrial and commercial facilities, Illinois EPA is pleased to partner with local governments and citizen groups on this site near our Agency headquarters," said Director Scott.

The St. Louis architectural firm of Hellmuth and Bicknese has been retained to lead a "mini-charrette" in which stakeholders will evaluate challenges at the site, potential new uses, and local needs and impact on the surrounding neighborhood. The session will be followed by a "reuse strategy session," led by the Chicago law firm of Bell Boyd and Lloyd that will take the next step of identifying and evaluating redevelopment tools, funding options, and other practical steps to attract support and investment. The sessions will be held in September, with follow-up reports provided by the consultants. The two firms were chosen through a competitive screening process and will be paid out of a federal grant from U.S. EPA to Illinois EPA.

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"The City of Springfield is pleased to partner with the Illinois EPA in



embarking on a process for the planning and reclamation of a potential brownfields site in our community that has historically anchored its adjacent neighborhood," said Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin.



Director Scott noted that the mill facility, which was originally opened by Pillsbury in 1929 and ceased production in 2002, is a short distance from the IEPA's Headquarters located in another former North End brownfields site, the once abandoned Sangamo Electric and Illinois Watch Company headquarters on North Grand Avenue between 9th and 11th Streets. The buildings now provide workspace for about 800 IEPA employees.

"Illinois EPA's brownfields and cleanup assistance to local governments and developers has greatly increased during Governor Blagojevich's administration, with more than 400 sites cleaned up in 2003 and 2004 alone under IEPA oversight, but we are especially pleased to assist with this site in our Headquarters neighborhood," Director Scott added.

The retaining of the expert consultants resulted from a request made to Illinois EPA by the Economic Development Council (EDC) for Springfield and Sangamon County, and Mayor Davlin, for assistance in evaluating the potential for revitalization of the Cargill/Pillsbury site.

Representing the EDC and its Cargill Subcommittee at the announcement today was Mike Houston of Town & Country Bank.

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