



Gretna, Louisiana

Brownfields Success Story 2009

Chemical Soup Has a Spicy Ending

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6 Brownfields Program

After a 20-year odyssey navigating through Federal and State environmental regulations, persistently pursuing needed resources and assistance, the City of Gretna successfully cleaned up and sold the Malter International property.

The former Malter International site is seven acres of previously developed land located in Gretna (population 18,500), Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The site was previously occupied by the Malter International facility, which was involved in a wide range of production, packaging, and shipping operations of various household and industrial chemical compounds, including but not limited to pesticides, herbicides, and cleaning solvents. Malter International reincorporated under new ownership as New Malter, Inc. in 1987. Operations were subsequently shut down and the facility was abandoned in 1989. Its prime location near the Mississippi River should have made this property attractive for redevelopment, but its history of contamination precluded any interest.

The US EPA completed CERCLA removal actions (cost of removal actions \$1.8 million) during 1991 through 1994 in response to complaints about chemical smells coming from the Malter property. After fires, vandalism and longtime neglect, the City of Gretna took on the gargantuan task of working through environmental regulatory and voluntary programs to assess and cleanup the site.

The City of Gretna competed and won a \$200,000 US EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot grant in 1997 that enabled the City to assess the Malter property in addition to completing a brownfields inventory and environmental site assessments on other brownfields properties within its city limits.

The City used a \$500,000 loan from its Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grant awarded by the US EPA to pay for cleanup of the former Malter International site. Cleanup activities included air sparge, groundwater extraction, steam-activated persulfate oxidation, soil excavation, and confirmatory sampling of both soil and groundwater. The contaminants addressed on the Malter property included methethylene chloride, chlorinated volatile organic compounds, pesticides – aldrin and dieldrin - and xylene.

The City was able to take advantage of expedited adjudication (foreclosure) of the property for back property taxes owed in 2006. After receiving a Certificate of Completion in September 2008 under the Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the City sold the Malter property to Zatarain's, a manufacturer of authentic New Orleans-style food products and subsidiary of McCormick & Company Inc., for \$660,000 in September 2009.

For more information on the City of Gretna's Brownfields Program, contact Mayor Ronnie Harris, email: mayor1@gretnala.com, or phone: (504) 363-1505.



Former Malter International



Air sparge and steam injection



Ready for Reuse