



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***State grant awarded to assess Clay County factory site***

INDIANAPOLIS – On behalf of the Clay County Redevelopment Commission, the Clay County Board of Commissioners has accepted a \$27,000 grant award from the Indiana Brownfields Program to perform an environmental assessment at a former brick and tile manufacturing facility located just north of the Brazil city limits.

“The grant will help the community investigate a major eyesore and potentially-contaminated property so that it can be used for future industrial redevelopment,” said Jim Coffenberry, Economic Development Specialist for the West Central Indiana Economic Development District. “When this project is complete, the County will have a marketable industrial site, which will lead to job creation for the County.”

The current owner of the site will work with the Clay County Redevelopment Commission to attract new industrial users to the site by demolishing buildings, remediating any environmental contamination and extending the existing industrial park road to this site.

“This grant is a great way to get back on track toward greater development in Brazil” said Rep. Amos Thomas. “The grant will not only help clean up a potentially environmental hazard, but also help increase the likelihood that profitable businesses will once again flourish in this particular area.”

A brownfield is a property where redevelopment can be complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination. The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to help communities identify and mitigate these environmental barriers, which could impede the economic growth of the community.

“Cleaning up distressed properties in our cities and towns leads to new development, brings in new businesses and ultimately creates jobs for Hoosiers – Governor Daniels’

number one goal,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana. “Encouraging revitalization is an important aspect of Governor Mitch Daniels’ plan for a stronger Indiana economy,” said Kitchell.

Political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 to perform environmental assessment activities, including Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and asbestos and lead paint surveys. Awardees must meet an investment criterion within two years of a grant award; otherwise they must repay the grant. Investment can include, but is not limited to remediation, demolition, construction or site preparation.

The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and offers financial, legal, technical, and educational assistance to entities involved with brownfields redevelopment. The Indiana Finance Authority was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

Communities can obtain more information on grant eligibility from the Indiana Brownfields Program at [www.brownfields.in.gov](http://www.brownfields.in.gov) or contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688 or [swestrick@ifa.in.gov](mailto:swestrick@ifa.in.gov).

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