Cleanup begins at former Crown Laundry site

INDIANAPOLIS-The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently assisting the City of Indianapolis with environmental cleanup efforts taking place at the former Crown Laundry site, 2913 E. Washington Street. The facility was demolished earlier this month.

The cleanup is expected to take four to six weeks and involves removing at least 13 underground storage tanks, sampling and excavating contaminated soil, air monitoring, testing nearby residential properties for indoor air health, and disposing of hazardous materials off-site.

The EPA first assessed the site in October 2010 and crews removed numerous 55-gallon drums and smaller containers of hazardous substances. The EPA also provided superfund emergency removal funds to help remediate the site.

This partnership was coordinated by the City’s Department of Metropolitan Development and its Brownfield Redevelopment Program along with the US EPA Region 5 Superfund Division’s Emergency Response & Removal Branch, Southeast Neighborhood Development, Inc. (SEND), and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with key support from Marion County Public Health Department, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Finance Authority’s Brownfields Program.
The City of Indianapolis and the Marion County Commissioners assisted the non-profit community development corporation, SEND’s efforts to acquire part of the property through the delinquent tax foreclosure statutory process. SEND also acquired the rest of the 2.75 acre brownfield property and was able to demolish the blighted building with funding from HUD.

Crown Laundry operated as a dry cleaner from 1910 to 1975. The property was subsequently operated by ESP Industrial as an electrical services parts distributor and most recently, part of the site operated as an automobile repair facility.

Once the cleanup is complete the site will be prepared for economic redevelopment with the goal of getting it back on the tax rolls, creating jobs, and operating as an asset for the community.