

# KCRD Kicks off Brownfields Project at Paxson Site



Kit Carson Rural Development has taken on a large Brownfields Project at what used to be known as the Paxson Building in Kit Carson. This project began last summer with the help of Jesse Silverstein and the Colorado Brownfields Foundation (CBF). What started as a conversation between Jesse and KCRD about a very large, run down building in the center of town, has developed into a massive cleanup project of a very contaminated brownfields site.

KCRD was able to gain technical assistance, guidance, and granted services through the Historic Byways Revitalization Initiative which is a partnership of the Colorado Brownfields Foundation, Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS), and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This Revitalization Initiative Project kicked off last fall. OPS provided oversight for the project while subcontracting out work to conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Assessments

regarding petroleum contaminants at the site. The results of these assessments found some soil contamination and buried petroleum tanks. CDPHE provided funding to conduct the asbestos survey which found friable asbestos in the buildings at the Paxson Site.

The Division of Oil and Public Safety also funded the removal of the three buried petroleum tanks at the site. This tank removal occurred last Tuesday and Wednesday, October 6th and 7th. OPS subcontracted out the tank pull oversight to a Denver firm, Altus Environmental. In turn Altus subcontracted work out to local contractor, KC Pumping, run by Kevin Domsch out of Cheyenne Wells. Fill dirt for the site was provided by the generous support of the Cheyenne County Commissioners and the county workers here in District 1. Thanks guys! The successful tank pull found no contamination in the dirt around the buried tanks.

Through technical assistance and guidance by Jesse Silverstein of the Colorado Brownfields Foundation, KCRD was able to secure an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to facilitate the abatement of the friable asbestos found at the site. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provided granted services via a cash grant that enabled KCRD to secure a qualified environmental consultant, Gobbel Hays Partners, to oversee this asbestos abatement project. This part of the project kicked off Monday October 12th. When you drive around Kit Carson, check out the Paxson Site and see all the progress!

Without the guidance and support KCRD received from CBF, OPS and CDPHE we never would have been able to take on a project of this size and scope. KCRD would like to give a special thanks to Jesse Silverstein for his unending support, guidance, and patience.

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