



**For Immediate Release – September 22, 2020**

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Drew Tanner, Communications Director, at 740-376-1030 or dtanner@buckeyehills.org

## **Perry County Brownfields Program Seeking Eligible Properties for Cleanup**

**New Lexington, OH** – Perry County was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant to conduct environmental studies on eligible brownfield sites within the county.

The ultimate goal of this grant funding is to work with property owners to create market-ready sites for new businesses that will grow the local economy.

Brownfield sites are properties that are impacted by hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. Brownfield sites include residential, commercial, and industrial properties, as well as mine-scarred lands. They may be contaminated by controlled substances or petroleum products, which complicate plans for the property's redevelopment, expansion, or reuse.

The goals of the program include working with property owners and partners to leverage funds and encourage redevelopment; completing assessments and cleanup plans to redevelop properties; and creating opportunities for new businesses, jobs and growth.

The grant may be used to assess, identify and plan cleanup activities at potentially contaminated sites. Specifically, the Perry County Brownfields Program can help to complete the following:

- Inventory of Brownfields Sites
- Phase I and II Site Investigations
- Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint Surveys
- Remedial Action Plans

Phase I and Phase II site investigations are paid for by the grant at no cost to the property owner. The assessment can increase the marketability of a property and may be required for a buyer or developer to obtain a loan for the property. The site investigation also removes the uncertainty that buyers may have about asbestos or lead paint. Additionally, if a known or suspected issue in the soil or groundwater is present, the assessment can quantify the actual magnitude of risk, easing the fears of potential buyers.

The funding may be used on any site within the jurisdiction of Perry County that meets the U.S. EPA property eligibility criteria. Property owner participation is voluntary. Sites will be prioritized based on eligibility, access, marketability, and community impact.

The public and property owners are encouraged to submit properties for consideration to: Mr. Benjamin Carpenter, President, Perry County Board of Commissioners 121 West Brown Street, Post Office Box 248, New Lexington, Ohio 43764. Additional information regarding the U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Program is available online at [http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment\\_grants.htm](http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment_grants.htm)

To learn more about Buckeye Hills Regional Council, visit [www.buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org), call 740-374-9436 or 1-800-331-2644 (toll free), or email [info@buckeyehills.org](mailto:info@buckeyehills.org)

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*Buckeye Hills Regional Council is a council of governments dedicated to improving the lives of residents in southeast Ohio. By working collaboratively with elected officials across Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties, Buckeye Hills connects local, state, and federal resources to communities with their Aging & Disability, Community Development, Mapping & Data, Population Health, and Transportation Planning divisions.*

*Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio*  
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