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News Release

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George Kaiser Family Foundation Receives Grant for Environmental Cleanup

A ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2011, to award the George Kaiser Family Foundation a Brownfields cleanup grant from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The event will take place at 224 N. Cincinnati, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The George Kaiser Family Foundation received \$200,000 to remove an underground tank system and associated contamination from a brownfield site in Tulsa. Cleanup at the proposed brownfield site will allow for development of a large scale community park and pavilion in the Brady area of Tulsa. The park is unique; it will have sustainable features such as solar panels to create energy that will run new LED lighting. Also, under the park, geothermal wells will be installed to heat and cool a nearby building. The overall goal of the project is to benefit the city of Tulsa while demonstrating environmental efficiency.

Funding for these grants is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). DEQ's Brownfield Program received approximately \$1.9 million to issue grants and loans through its Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. The ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants are meant to finance eligible shovel-ready Brownfield cleanup projects, encourage redevelopment and create and/or preserve local jobs in communities across the state. The funds may be used toward the cleanup of properties contaminated by hazardous chemicals, petroleum or petroleum products, mine-scarred lands, and buildings containing asbestos and lead paint. Local governments and non-profit organizations are eligible for grants and loans; "for-profit" companies are eligible for low-interest loans.

DEQ will hold another Brownfields cleanup grant competition this year. Questions about the ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants and loans can be sent to oklahomabrownfields@deq.ok.gov.

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