



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Recipient:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to invite you to participate in a voluntary collaborative project aimed at revitalizing abandoned and underutilized former fueling stations along stretches of two historic highways: Route 66 in Missouri and Kansas, and the Lincoln Highway in Iowa and Nebraska. This project, spearheaded by EPA Region 7, began in August 2007 and so far includes the partnership of the environmental agencies of the four states in Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) as well as the National Park Service Route 66 Preservation Program. EPA is now seeking to broaden the partnership to include communities in which there are abandoned and underutilized former fueling stations located along these two historic highways.

The project's primary goal is to use the environmental resources and capabilities of the partnership team to revitalize abandoned and underutilized former fueling stations within Region 7 along Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway. The project will focus on sites that, through our efforts, can be made ready for redevelopment rather than sites where the obstacles to redevelopment are too large. As you are no doubt aware, the revitalization of run-down properties creates a range of benefits including new jobs, increased property values, tax revenues leading to strengthened local economies, improved aesthetics and community pride, along with a cleaner environment. The following photographs illustrate the difference that revitalized properties can make in communities:



An abandoned gas station along the Lincoln Highway in Jefferson, Iowa.



A former gas station in reuse along the Lincoln Highway in Ogallala, Nebraska. This station has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We have put together an inventory of 217 abandoned and underutilized former fueling stations along Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway. This inventory was completed by actually driving the sections of both these routes. The inventory indicates that your community may be home to one or more of these former fueling stations. A copy of the inventory is enclosed for your information.

To make the revitalization of former fueling stations possible, this project will attempt to identify and provide various forms of assistance to communities and property owners. The potential assistance could include grants, environmental assessments, environmental remediation, technical assistance, legal advice, and coordination between federal, state, and local agencies. This assistance may come from EPA, other federal agencies such as the National Park Service, the states where the properties are located, and other partners.

We look forward to discussing your community's potential involvement in this project. For more information about EPA Region 7 or the National Park Service Route 66 Preservation Program, please visit www.epa.gov/Region7 or www.nps.gov/history/rt66.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact me within 30 days. If you have questions about this project, please contact me by e-mail at doyle.david@epa.gov, by telephone at (913) 551-7667, write to me using Region 7's address at the top of this letter, or you may contact your state environmental agency contact from the enclosed list.

Sincerely,

David Doyle
Land Revitalization Coordinator

Enclosures