

For Immediate Release

Contact: Angela Jeruzal

jeruzal@sme-usa.com
734-454-9900

**SOIL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERS ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA COALITION PROJECT SUCCESS STEMMING FROM
U.S. EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT FUND SUPPORT**

Project success exemplifies best practices in utilizing brownfield grant funding and development of effective economic redevelopment strategies, as well as collaboration between project partners in moving redevelopment forward

INDIANAPOLIS, May 12, 2014 – Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc. (SME) is pleased to announce that the U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Brownfield Assessment Grant it helped secure and is managing on behalf of the Noblesville (Indiana) Coalition to support brownfield redevelopment efforts have resulted in moving several projects in the region forward to date. The announcement was made by SME Vice President Michael Meddock, P.E. and John Ditslear, Mayor, City of Noblesville.

U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Grants provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning), and community involvement related to brownfield sites. The grant award for the Noblesville Coalition was in the amount of \$400,000.

The Noblesville Coalition was formed by Ditslear and Noblesville Economic Development Director Judi Johnson as part of their vision to foster cooperation and collaboration in northern Hamilton County on brownfield and economic development efforts. The Coalition originally included the towns of Sheridan and Arcadia; the town of Cicero was recently added and is already talking to potential users of the assessment grant. SME wrote the successful grant application and is now managing the grant on behalf of the Coalition, and is providing brownfield assessment services for projects related to the Coalition's grant.

"The importance of the brownfield grant in helping to catalyze redevelopment in the coalition area cannot be underscored enough," said Ditslear. "We have always said that we are forward looking regarding economic redevelopment, and the brownfield grant funds have been an instrumental tool for moving the needle to the point where true revitalization is now happening. For the Coalition, working together as partners, along with SME's guidance, has proven to be a very effective process for our communities."

The redevelopment projects currently underway or planned with funding from the Noblesville Coalition's U.S. EPA brownfield grant funds to date include the following:

- Assessment of the former Noblesville Foundry building by new owners ID Castings
- Two new proposed housing projects with the Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development (HAND) in Noblesville
- Assessment of properties at the future Westside Park in Noblesville
- Assessment of property to expand Biddle Park in Sheridan
- Assessment of property for the Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville

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According to ID Castings, one of the reasons they chose the Noblesville Foundry property was the availability of brownfield funding to assist them in evaluating the environmental conditions at the site, and how well Noblesville's Economic Development team and SME worked with them to meet their objectives.

"As an organization, our leadership and team members are committed to ecological and environmentally friendly practices in all endeavors. We are so pleased with and encouraged by the support and cooperation of our local governmental agencies," said John Kelley, Plant Engineer, ID Castings. "Mayor Ditslear and the City of Noblesville serve as wonderful partners in our journey to build a world-class foundry on our community's near southside." ID Castings plans to invest more than \$20 million in facility upgrades, retain more than 25 jobs, and create future jobs in Noblesville.

Added Johnson, "The Noblesville region is a tight-knit community that is proud of what we have to offer both to business and residents. One of the goals of the grant was to not only ensure the region's future marketability to those considering a move here, but also to continue to enhance the quality of life by offering a tool to attract arts, education and recreational redevelopment opportunities. The brownfield grant funds provide us with a resource to accomplish all of those economic development objectives."

For more information on SME's brownfield and environmental services, visit www.sme-usa.com/html/servtces/environmental.htm. For more information on the U.S. EPA's Brownfield Assessment Grants and other brownfield programs, visit <http://epa.gov/brownfields>.

About SME: *Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc. helps build a better world with innovative, practical and sustainable solutions for the natural and built environments through geotechnical, environmental, and materials consulting and design services ranging from the American Midwest to Asia and South America. SME's extensive experience includes providing Brownfield redevelopment consulting, along with pavement engineering, roof design, facility assessments, geotechnical engineering evaluations, environmental assessments and more. The firm is consistently recognized for its pioneering work in transforming old, blighted and contaminated sites into healthy, productive, sustainable and enjoyable new uses that contribute to communities. For more information, visit www.sme-usa.com.*

About the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: *The mission of the U.S. EPA is to protect human health and the environment, and its purpose is to ensure that: all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work, and that all parts of society have access to accurate information sufficient to participate in reducing that risk. The EPA accomplishes its mission by writing, developing and enforcing regulations; giving grants for programs for scientific studies, community cleanups, and more; sponsoring partnership programs that protect the environment; teaching people about the environment; and publishing information about EPA activities. Visit www.epa.gov for more information.*

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