

Amery Fire Station

PUB-RR-729

July, 2005

Amery Fire Station (Former Superlocker Meat business)

101 North Keller Ave.
Amery, WI
Polk County

.75 Acres

Location: Downtown Amery in the shopping district, adjacent to the Apple River, the Cat Tail Trail and a city park.

If someone asked you where to find brownfields, northern Wisconsin might not be the first place you'd think of for abandoned buildings, contaminated properties or blighted eyesores.

Yet brownfields are, unfortunately, a part of rural communities as much as they are for more populated, urban areas. In Amery, a city of 3,000 people located in the scenic lake country northwest of Eau Claire, officials have been dealing with a contaminated property that has hosted a number of businesses over the past 80 years.

History

From the 1930s to the 1960s, this downtown site had been used for many purposes - a gas station, a bulk oil terminal, a car dealership - even an ice

cream plant. It's most recent use was as a meat locker and retail meat store.

Due to its location - along a shopping district and adjacent to a city park and the Cat Tail Recreation Trail- officials made the decision to tackle this eyesore as part of their redevelopment efforts along the Apple River.

Investigation & Cleanup

Site remediation work that has occurred on the property for the past several years included the removal of two above-ground storage tanks and more than 2,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil.



The Super Locker property prior to the removal of contaminated soil and demolition of the building (photo courtesy of Mike Hultgren, Pinnacle Engineering).

The city worked cooperatively with the RR Program as well as with staff from the Department of Commerce, using funds from the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

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(PECFA) Program to complete the cleanup. The site was granted closure by the DNR in 2003.

Redevelopment

The owner of the site donated the land and \$500,000 to the city, which officials used to demolish the building and construct a new city fire station. Planners incorporated a brick façade and historic design features.

The project was completed in the spring of 2004 and has become the centerpiece of the city's downtown renewal efforts. In his remarks about the city's new facility, Amery Mayor Harvey Stower expressed his appreciation to the DNR for the excellent cooperation in working with the community to return this brownfield back into a productive property.



Amery's new fire station, located on the former Super Locker property, completed in the spring of 2004 (photo by Phil Richard, DNR).

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

In addition to receiving a close-out letter from the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program, the site also received a Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PECFA) for approximately \$76,950.

Contacts

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