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NJIT TAB TIMES

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NJIT helps extend the Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit into Tennessee



From Top Left: Felicia Fred (EPA R3) Top Right: Gary White (NJIT TAB) Bottom Left: Derek Street (EPA R4)

This year marked the first time that the Central Appalachian Regional Brownfield Summit was held in EPA Region 4. As members of the Central Appalachian Brownfield Innovation Network (CABIN), NJIT TAB partnered with the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) to incorporate the annual Central Appalachian Regional Brownfield Summit (CARBS) into the 2019 Tennessee Environmental Conference (TEC) by adding a Brownfield Redevelopment tract to the conference. NJIT TAB also served on the speaker selection committee for the conference. In addition, NJIT TAB partnered with Olga Perry (EPA

Region 4), Derek Street (EPA Region 4), and Felicia Fred (EPA Region 3) to create and present a conference session entitled “Why Go It Alone? A Brownfields 101 & Creating Regional Synergy” at the conference in Kingsport, Tennessee on March 19, 2019. Lastly, NJIT TAB presented the brownfield redevelopment portion of the conference session.

The goal of the session was to educate communities about the basics of brownfield redevelopment and the importance of collaboration inside and outside of their respective organizations. In addition, rural Appalachian communities were given the opportunity to network with TAB and learn about services available to them. EPA Region 4 also talked in depth about how communities could utilize the Target Brownfield Assessments (TBA) to jumpstart their brownfield projects.

During the session, NJIT TAB and EPA Region 3 & 4 covered discussion points including:

- Definition of brownfields;
- Brownfield redevelopment impact and benefits for the community;
- Overview of the brownfield assessment, remediation, and redevelopment processes;
- Targeted brownfield assessment availability;
- Regional resources;
- Steps to create regional synergy;
- TAB Services, and
- Central Appalachian brownfield success stories.

Conference participants described the session as informative and engaging. The audience consisted of environmental regulators, environmental consultants, nonprofit organizations, municipal officials, and other brownfields neophytes from Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, and West Virginia. Approximately 70 people attended this session and over 140 attended the conference.

NJIT and other fellow CABIN members also took the time to congratulate Herb Petitjean from the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection on his upcoming retirement.