

## ***The Bayonne Community News***

### **April 11, 2001**

On April 2, state and municipal officials and local residents witnessed the official start of demolition at the former Standard Tank property located at the foot of Ingham Avenue. The crowd of 50 cheered when workers from Excel Environmental Resources, the clean-up contractor, knocked down a large, black oil tank near the Kill Van Kull.

Standard Tank, the former owner of the eight-acre waterfront property, discharged millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater into the Kill Van Kull from the 1950's until it was shut down in 1993.

Mayor Joseph V. Doria Jr. called the property "one of the most environmentally damaged in the area." He thanked the State of New Jersey for the \$950,000 grant that is funding the first phase of clean-up there.

The funds come from the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority's Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative. Brownfields are industrial properties with contaminated grounds.

Doria explained that the state funding would enable Bayonne to make "significant headway in removing pollutants from this property." He promised to pursue additional funds to restore the property.

At the event last week, New Jersey Community Affairs Commissioner, Jane Kenny presented Doria with a check for the clean-up. She said, "This site has enormous potential. What's happening here today is going to have a positive ripple effect on the entire area."

New Jersey Environmental Protection Commissioner, Robert Shinn said, "Given the history of this site, Bayonne is to be complimented for taking on this major remediation project. It proves that the state's Brownfield programs are providing the right incentives to take on major clean-ups, which create both a healthier environment and a healthier economy."

New Jersey Redevelopment Authority Executive Director, William Best observed, "The clean-up of Standard Tank demonstrates how the Brownfield Redevelopment Initiative can lead the way to revitalized neighborhoods, new jobs, and an expanded local tax base."

When the City of Bayonne foreclosed on Standard Tank in 1998, the company owed the municipality approximately \$3 million in property taxes and penalties. Doria said his administrations goal is to make the property "economically productive again."

Jim Monkowski, Senior Environmental Specialist with the Hudson Regional Health Commission, said that Bayonne pursued clean-up grants "very aggressively" for this

site. The total cost for cleaning property for industrial reuse is an estimated \$2.5 million to \$4 million, according to state officials.

For the Standard Tank project, the municipality received the largest Brownfields grant in the state, \$950,000 out of the \$15 million in funds available for the first year of the Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative.

Michael O'Connor, Executive Director of the Bayonne Economic Development Corporation, predicted that the Standard Tank clean-up would become "a showcase project for the state's Brownfield Redevelopment Initiative and for Brownfield conversion across the country."

According to Excel Environmental Resources, the first round of demolition and clean-up at Standard Tank will be completed this summer.

Among those present for the demolition ceremony were Council Member-At-Large Mary Jane Desmond, First Ward Council Member Anthony Chiappone, former Mayor Dennis P. Collins, and former City Council President Neil A. DeSena.