



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2008

GRATIOT COUNTY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO BE RECOGNIZED AT THE EPA REGION V BROWNFIELDS AWARDS

Gratiot County (Michigan) Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) will be recognized with an award at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Open House reception on May 5th at the National Brownfields Conference. The 400,000 square foot facility commonly known as "Oxford Automotive/Lobdell Emery" in Alma, Michigan was assessed and remediated in 2007 using combined EPA and private funds. AKT Peerless Environmental Services (AKT Peerless) has continued its success in resolving environmental concerns for its clients. For the new property owner, Merrill Fabricators Inc., AKT Peerless achieved Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) delisting status at the facility and obtained Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA)/Due Care affirmation.

In addition to the environmental cleanup, AKT Peerless facilitated \$350,000 in tax increment financing reimbursement for the developer and the Gratiot County local site remediation fund. Merrill Fabricators manufactures large and complex welded products for the oil and gas, transportation, and related industries and fully expects to employ up to 300 employees at the facility within two years.

Mr. James S. Linton, Vice President Brownfield Services for AKT Peerless said, "When presented with a project, we don't just look at the environmental issues, we look at the project as a whole. If there's a financial gap, we bring financial incentives to help get the project done." "Working with the Gratiot County BRA, we were able to bring our experience in brownfield services and environmental cleanup to the former Oxford Automotive site." said Dave Van Haaren, AKT Peerless Regional Manager. The county BRA project is receiving special recognition as a "significant contribution to the EPA Region 5 Brownfields Program" at the EPA's Region 5 open house at the "Brownfields 2008: Roadmap to Revitalization" conference to be held in Detroit at Cobo Hall on May 5th through May 7th, 2008. The open house is May 5th at 1:15 p.m. in Room 02-38.