

Superfund Job Training Initiative

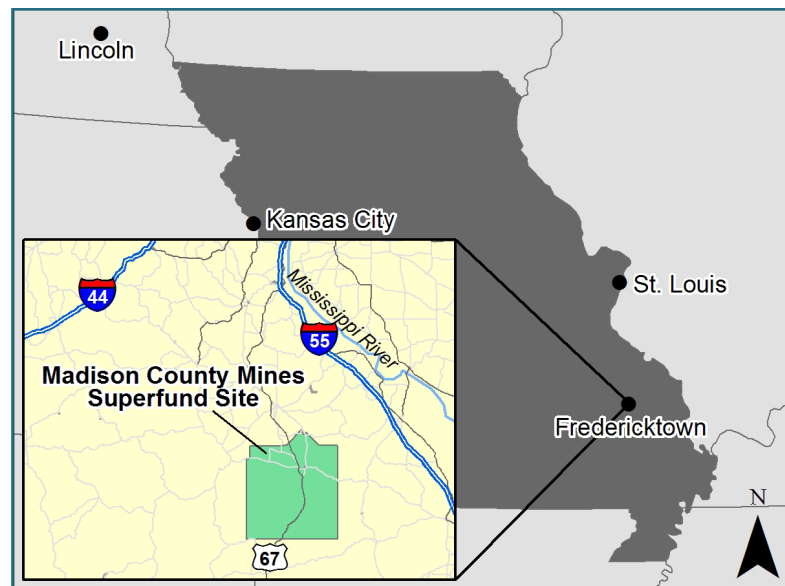


MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE MADISON COUNTY MINES SUPERFUND SITE



Introduction

The Madison County Mines Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) is an environmental remediation job readiness program that provided career development opportunities for 24 trainees living on or near the Madison County Mines Superfund site in southeast Missouri. Through a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Madison County Health Department, area organizations and remedial site contractor Environmental Restoration, Madison County Mines SuperJTI provided local job seekers with new skills, certifications and hands-on training linked to construction and cleanup. EPA's goal is to help find employment opportunities available for affected communities during the cleanup and redevelopment process, and to provide the workforce development skills needed to take advantage of those opportunities.



Mining took place at the site from the early 1700s to the mid-1900s. (Map Sources: Esri, DeLorme, AND, Tele Atlas, First American, UNEP-WCMC, USGS and 2019 Remedial Action Fact Sheet.)

Outreach, Recruitment and Screening: December 2017 – January 2018

Madison County Mines SuperJTI and EPA Region 7 staff reached out to the community through local and regional stakeholders, unemployment offices, non-profits, and by advertising on area radio stations and local newspapers. The Madison County Health Department posted information on social media and reached out to area organizations to help publicize the program and attract interested candidates. SuperJTI, Madison County Health Department and Environmental Restoration staff hosted information sessions about the program in Fredericktown, Missouri. In January 2018, nearly 100 people attended the program's 14 information sessions and 91 completed a preliminary testing process. After these sessions, 71 people returned and submitted required documents. Sixty-one people participated in program tryouts. The tryouts included leadership, team building and role-playing activities, a physical fitness evaluation, and observation by a team of evaluators from the program's partners. Twenty-four of the 25 trainees selected during tryouts went on to complete the program.

Training and Job Placement: February – March 2018

The two-week Madison County Mines SuperJTI training program took place in Fredericktown, Missouri. It included:

Work Readiness Training: Trainees completed courses in environmental justice, interpersonal communication, building cultural competence and effective work habits. EPA contractor Skeo provided the training.

40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Training: Trainees earned their HAZWOPER certification and learned about cleanup and safety topics such as environmental legislation and standards, toxicology, hazardous material site/spill control containment, and decontamination and isolation. Trainees participated in hands-on training scenarios using equipment and gear.

OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety and Health: Trainees earned their OSHA-10-hr Construction Outreach certification and learned about topics such as OSHA's "Focus Four" hazards, personal protective equipment, electrocution and falls.

CPR/First Aid: Trainees earned their CPR/First Aid certification and learned about topics such as soft tissue injuries, burns, shock, rescue breaths, methods to stop bleeding, bloodborne pathogens, poisoning, CPR, and injuries



Site Background

The Madison County Mines site includes all of Madison County and part of southern St. Francois County, Missouri. Mining activities from the early 1700s to the mid-1900s resulted in 13 major tailings and chat deposit areas from mineral processing operations. Erosion of the tailings resulted in heavy metals contamination – primarily lead – of soils, sediments, surface water and groundwater. Contaminated soil, tailings and chat were used for foundation bases and driveways and as fill and topsoil.

After finding that children in the area had elevated blood lead levels, EPA led assessment and contaminant removal activities. EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities list in 2003. Cleanup at the site has included remediation of over 1,600 properties. Additional cleanup is planned through 2020.

Additional site information is available at the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/madisoncountymines>.

to muscles, bones and joints. The University of Illinois Hazardous Waste Materials Training Program provided the HAZWOPER, OSHA-10 and CPR/First Aid training.

After the program, SuperJTI provided the graduates' information to Environmental Restoration to help inform placement efforts. A total of 18 graduates acquired positions as laborers, drivers and equipment operators.

GRADUATE PROFILES



Gary Ward

Gary was self-employed as a mechanic when he heard about SuperJTI. Seeking a steadier stream of work, Gary applied and was accepted into the program. During the training, Gary found the topics discussed during the work readiness course to be the most memorable. The course made him “think outside the box a lot,” he recalled. After completing the SuperJTI training, Gary was offered a job with site remedial contractor Environmental Restoration. He eventually took a job with a nearby mining and metals employer, The Doe Run Company, unloading lead from trucks. Gary was promoted and is now a Southeast Missouri Port Supervisor at the company. Gary’s supervisory duties include maintaining the truck schedule, keeping track of inventory and truck tonnage, and acting as a liaison with other companies. Gary feels that the certifications he earned through SuperJTI helped him to get his job. The fact that he is one of the only people at the company with those certifications has also been an asset. He also noticed an increase in annual income since graduating from SuperJTI and starting his new job. “I make a lot more money now than when I worked for myself, plus I have benefits and profit-sharing,” he said. “The training was well worth it.”



Wendell Jarvis

Wendell Jarvis had worked for St. Francois County for 18 years and was ready for a change. After hearing an advertisement for SuperJTI on the radio, he decided to apply for the program. After completing the training, Wendell interviewed with Environmental Restoration and was offered a position on the spot. Wendell began working on site as a laborer for a short time; he then transitioned to operating heavy equipment and dump trucks. He found that the certifications he earned prepared him for a variety of opportunities. Wendell has continued working for Environmental Restoration on an oil pipeline in North Dakota as well as on emergency response jobs, including oil, diesel and battery acid spills. Wendell says that the certifications he earned during SuperJTI and the work readiness courses have prepared him well for working with people from different backgrounds.

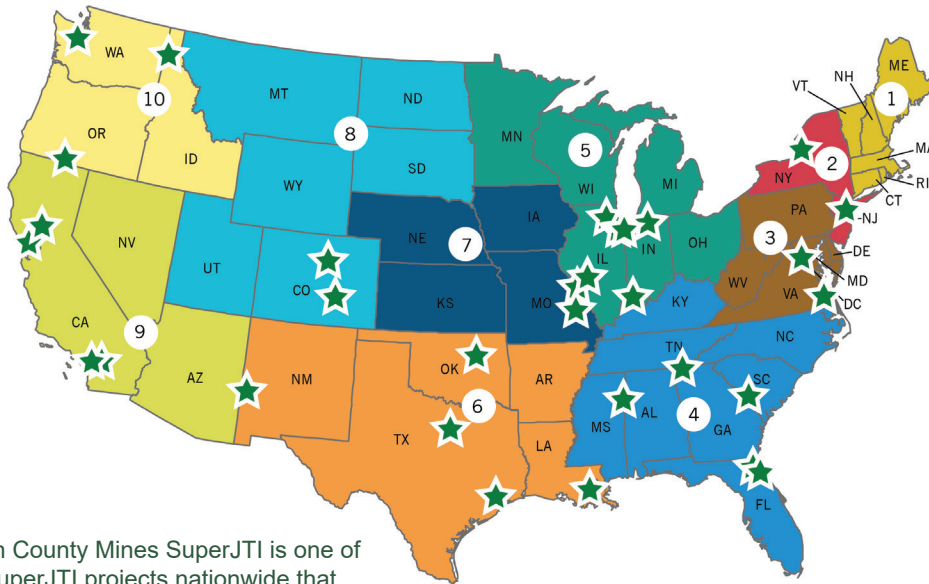
When asked about his job satisfaction, Wendell said he is happy to be doing environmental work and enjoys traveling. His work-life balance has improved greatly: “It’s stress-free compared to what I was doing before,” he said. “I am a totally different man and have no stress.” Overall, Wendell felt that his SuperJTI experience was positive and set him up for success. “I don’t know that you can improve the training. It set me up to do things I never thought I would do,” he reflected. “It opened my mind to a lot of things.”



Graduation for the program’s 24 trainees took place in Fredericktown at Black River Electric Cooperative in March 2018. EPA Region 7 Enforcement Compliance Office Deputy Director Althea M. Moses and EPA Region 9 Superfund Community Involvement Section Chief David Yogi attended the ceremony and handed out certificates to the graduates. The ceremony included remarks from program partners as well as the graduates.

MADISON COUNTY MINES SUPERJTI TRAINEES:

Live on or near the Madison County Mines site: Sixty-three percent of the trainees (15 people) live in Madison and St. Francois counties. The other trainees reside in neighboring counties. Eight trainees live in Fredericktown, Missouri, where the training was held.



Madison County Mines SuperJTI is one of many SuperJTI projects nationwide that are making a difference for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites.



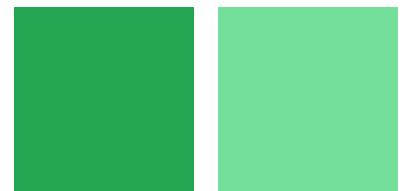
What is the SuperJTI Program?



The Superfund Job Training Initiative, or SuperJTI, supports job readiness programs in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites and encourages the employment of trainees at local site cleanups.

The SuperJTI program combines extensive classroom instruction with hands-on exercises for each participant. Upon completion of the program, each participant possesses marketable skills, making them a more valuable and sought-after member of the community's workforce.

EPA offers SuperJTI training at no cost to training participants.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative>

Or contact SuperJTI's National Program Manager:

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