



BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS FACT SHEET

December 2009

What is a DEC Brownfield Assessment? The Reuse and Redevelopment (R&R) Program of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) assists Alaskan communities in conducting environmental site assessments at brownfield sites. A brownfield is a property where real, or perceived, environmental conditions complicate the reuse or redevelopment of the site. The intent of a DEC Brownfield Assessment (DBA) is to help reduce the environmental uncertainties so that a brownfield can be put back into productive use. All work is completed by DEC and its contractors.

The objectives of a DBA are to:

- Help determine whether an environmental problem at a site is limiting its desired reuse;
- Help identify the nature and extent of contamination;
- Make recommendations and estimate costs for additional assessment, if needed; and
- Identify cleanup options and provide an estimate of cleanup costs, if indicated.

How are projects selected? The selection process uses a set of brownfield-specific criteria to rank and prioritize the proposed projects. These criteria include the following:

1. The property is blighted, abandoned, or underutilized, and the reuse or redevelopment of the property is hindered by its actual or perceived environmental conditions.
2. The site is publicly owned or has no viable responsible party.
3. Reuse or redevelopment plans are in place, with strong community support for the revitalization of the property.
4. The planned reuse has a clear and sustainable economic or social benefit.
5. The estimated cost of the assessment is within our funding capacity.
6. The DBA is likely to further the applicant's reuse objectives.

Who is eligible to apply? Public, quasi-public, and non-profit entities, such as cities, boroughs, tribes, and community development organizations are eligible applicants. The applicant does not have to own the site to request an assessment, but must be able to ensure access to the site.

What sites are eligible? Any brownfield site is eligible for a DBA, including state-owned sites. A brownfield site that is privately held may be considered, but only if the owner is not a viable responsible party and the project can be shown to offer significant public benefit.

How do I apply? Fill out and submit a *DEC Brownfield Assessment Request Form*. Annual request periods and deadlines for submittal will be posted on DEC's brownfield website, and announced through our list serve. Email your DBA request form to Sonja Benson at Sonja.Benson@alaska.gov, or fax it to (907) 451-2155. DEC staff may contact you for additional information about your request.

Additional information: The selection of a site for a DBA in no way implies that DEC is accepting liability for any contamination that may be found at the site, nor is DEC responsible for any necessary cleanup of hazardous substances at the site. For questions about this program or the application process, please call Sonja Benson at 451-2156 (Sonja.Benson@alaska.gov), John Carnahan at 451-2166 (John.Carnahan@alaska.gov), or Deborah Williams at 451-5174 (Deborah.Williams@alaska.gov). Please see our website for additional information:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/brownfields.htm>

