



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 11-41

Sept. 21, 2011

CONTACT: Sonja Benson, DEC Program Specialist, (907) 451-2156

DEC Staff Honored for Brownfields Work

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is proud to announce that department staff received a 2011 National Notable Achievement Award for Outstanding Brownfields Teamwork. The award is given out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER).

DEC's John Carnahan, Sonja Benson, and a former staff member, Deb Williams, were presented with plaques signed by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and OSWER Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus, honoring the team's exemplary performance. Carnahan, Benson and Williams are part of DEC's Fairbanks office. Also receiving awards as part of Alaska's brownfields team are four members of EPA's Region 10 office.

Brownfields are industrial or commercial sites where redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by environmental contamination. They are not unique to urban areas. Alaska's rural communities also have brownfields such as old canneries or logging camps, fuel-storage tank farms, abandoned dump sites, schools, hospitals and formerly used defense sites.

The award acknowledges the team's dedication to rural Alaska residents in providing technical and other assistance in cleanup of brownfield sites.

"Rural Alaska is a challenging place for brownfields work, but this work is important to individual communities seeking to redevelop or use these areas," said DEC Commissioner Larry Hartig. "I extend my congratulations and thanks to John, Sonja and Deb for all their hard work in making the brownfields program a success in Alaska."

The National Notable Achievement Awards are given out annually in recognition of outstanding performance in support of OSWER and EPA's most significant priorities.

For more information on DEC's Reuse and Redevelopment Program, visit its Web site at:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields.htm>.

####