

# Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



## Reuse and Redevelopment Program



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# What we will talk about

- Overview of what Reuse and Redevelopment is about
- Accomplishments in the world of Brownfields
- Our *Vision* for the future of R&R

# Where is R&R?

- **State of Alaska**
  - **Department of Environmental Conservation**
    - Division of Spill Prevention and Response
      - Contaminated Sites Program
        - State & Private Sites Cleanup Program
          - Reuse and Redevelopment (aka: *Brownfields*)

# DEC's R&R Program

- DEC's R&R *or* Brownfield Program
  - Federally funded by EPA
  - We provide various services to facilitate contaminated property assessment and cleanup
  - The objective is reuse or redevelopment

*Brownfields* are abandoned and blighted properties (no viable responsible party) with reuse potential

# DEC's R&R Program, continued

- The R&R Program understands the importance of economic development
  - Most assessment or cleanup projects begin with economic development interests
  - *Not* a cleanup program: have the end goal in mind *first*
  - *Brownfields programs are not the answer to every environmental problem*

# What do we do?

- Coordinate with state/federal agencies, units of government, tribes, Corps.
- Attempt to clarify the world of *Alaska* brownfield-type reuse opportunities
- Seek/obtain resources for *good* R&R projects
- Facilitate & oversee assessments and cleanups – *we can't always complete them on our own*
- Provide training and outreach to expand understanding and statewide BF capacity

*Act as resource to all*

# Some Accomplishments

- Increased funding for our program and for Alaska
- Outreach:
  - Handbook
  - Web pages
  - Newsletter
  - Annual Alaska Brownfield Tribal Response Program Workshop
- Training workshop
- Assessment and cleanup projects

# What we've accomplished, cont.

- Help with applications for brownfield grants and services
  - Targeted Brownfield Assessments
  - Assessment and cleanup grants
  - Job training grants
- Project coordination and oversight
- Resource for other programs within DEC
  - Some programs have different objectives
- Contracts

# Types of sites in Alaska

- Commercial Properties (mostly urban)
- ED areas (i.e., Mountain View)
- Abandoned school sites (mostly rural)
- Old industrial sites – canneries, logging companies (urban and rural)
- Old/abandoned dumps (urban and rural)
- Tank farms (urban and rural)
- Formerly used Defense sites (mostly rural)
- Airport commercial properties (urban and rural)

# Commercial Properties



# Blighted/Abandoned



# Foreclosures



# Tank Farms



# Petroleum Cleanups



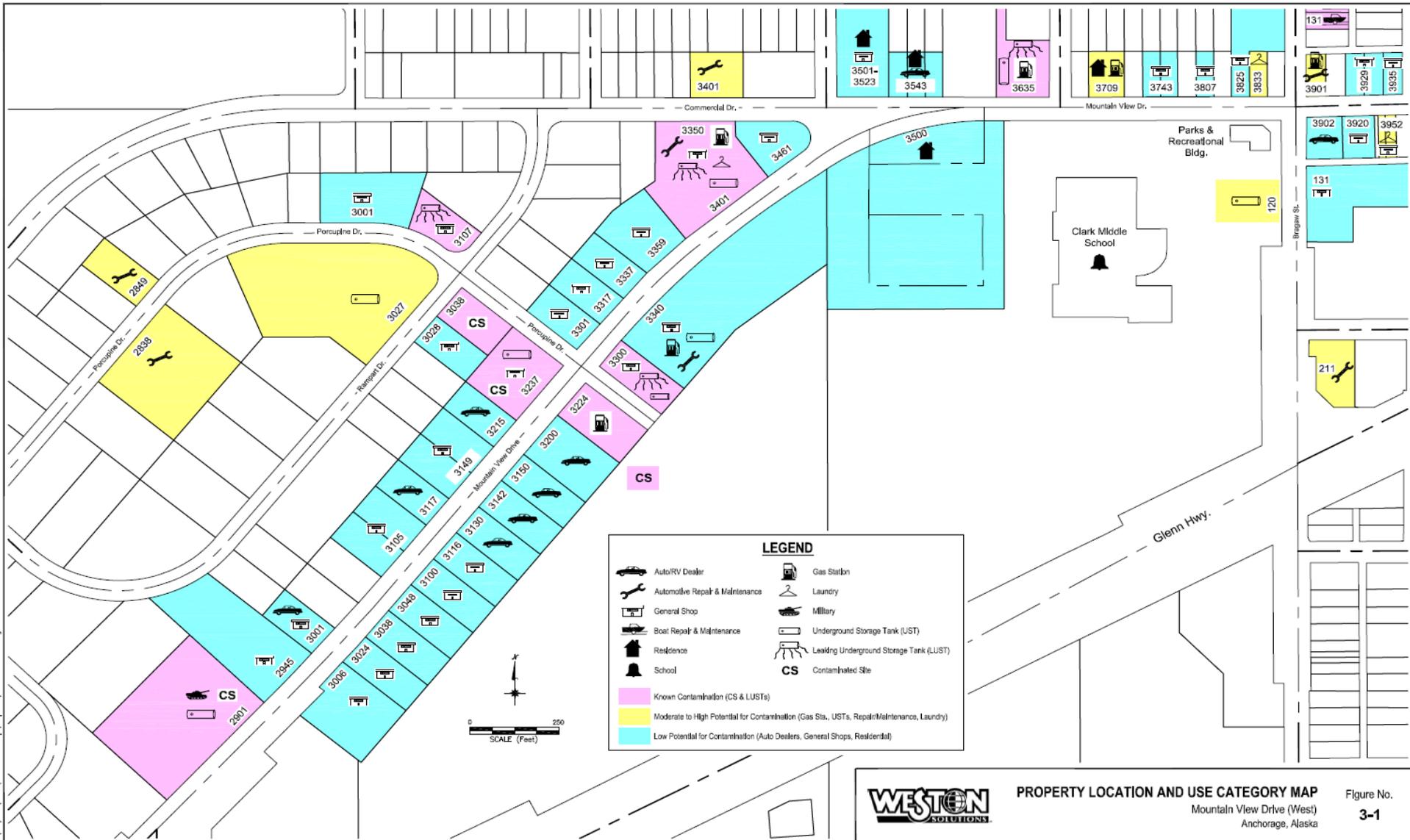
# Industrial Sites



# Stagnant properties



# Regional Assessments



# New developments

- First time for cleanups this year with STRP funding– two projects
  - Selawik – *construction on old tank farm site*
  - Kwethluk – *site preparation of old burned community center*
- Follow up on past projects:
  - Kobuk – *old tank farm site cleanup*
  - Hughes – Cleanup coordinated with YRITWC
  - Hughes

*We'd like to hear from you if your project is stalled, moving along, or you've had a success in which our work may have played a part.*

# New developments, continued

- Environmental justice component to the R&R Program
- Survey of environmental conditions at Rural Education Attendance Area (REAA) schools
  - Abandoned (BIA) schools
  - Active schools
- Environmental curriculum development
  - Increased environmental awareness
  - Better environmental (brownfield) prevention

# New developments, continued

- Alaska Brownfield Task Force
  - Municipalities, Tribes, Native Corporations, State Agencies, Non-Profits, Economic Development Organizations, Housing Authorities
  - Task Force Goals:
    - Increased brownfield awareness
    - Support for reuse incentives and funding
    - More Alaska-grown brownfield revitalization
    - Better neighborhoods and communities
    - Increased revenue from increased property values
    - Job creation

# Vision

- State funding and incentives for brownfield redevelopment
  - *Loans?*
  - *Grants?*
- Revitalization of previously-developed properties and preservation of pristine spaces
  - *Make reusing our infrastructure a priority*
- Coordinated environmental community
  - *Coordinated message*

# Questions?

*Sign up for our List Serve—pick up our business cards  
Handouts and information on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

*Thank you!*

*John Carnahan, Sonja Benson, & Melinda Brunner*

