BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS AND CLEANUPS FACT SHEET

What is a DEC Brownfield Project? The ***Reuse and Redevelopment*** **(R&R) Program** of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) assists Alaskan communities in conducting environmental site assessments and cleanups at brownfield sites. A brownfield is a property where real, or perceived, environmental conditions prevent or restrict the reuse or redevelopment of the site. The intent of a DEC Brownfield Assessment or Cleanup (DBAC) is to help identify and reduce the environmental uncertainties or actual conditions so that a brownfield can be put back into productive use. The DBAC is a service provided by DEC; it is not a grant program. Project work is completed by DEC and its contractors.

The objectives of a DBAC 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;
- Identify cleanup options and provide an estimate of cleanup costs, if indicated; and
- When funding permits, conduct cleanup activities designed to enable reuse of a site.

How are projects selected? We use a set of brownfield-specific criteria to rank and prioritize proposed projects. To be considered for a DBAC, the site must adhere to the following criteria:

1. The property is blighted, abandoned, or underutilized, and the revitalization 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, documented community support.
4. The planned reuse has a clear and sustainable economic or social benefit.
5. The estimated cost of the assessment or cleanup is within our funding capacity.
6. The DBAC will help the applicant achieve their 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 <u>does not</u> have to own the site to request an assessment, but access to the site must be assured. The applicant must own the site to request a cleanup. The applicant must have a reuse or redevelopment plan in place.

What sites are eligible? Any brownfield site that is NOT a federally or state-owned property is eligible for a DBAC. 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 & Cleanup 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 DBAC 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: When applying for a DEC Brownfield Assessment or Cleanup, it must be clear to all parties associated that the work requested of DEC is designed to clarify, and in some cases clean up, environmental hindrances that currently impede the safe continued use, proposed use, redevelopment, or sale of a property. Work conducted by DEC may result in the identification of a property as a *contaminated site*, and require the site be listed on DEC's *Contaminated Sites Database at http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/db_search.htm*. With listing comes the requirement of potentially responsible and liable parties (typically the property owner) to address cleanup of contamination in accordance with regulatory requirements. The selection of a site for a DBAC in no way implies that DEC is accepting liability for any contamination that may be found at the site or that may be addressed through its cleanup actions.

For questions about this program or the application process, please call Sonja Benson at (907) 451-2156 (Sonja.Benson@alaska.gov), John Carnahan at (907) 451-2166 (John.Carnahan@alaska.gov), or Melinda Brunner at (907) 451-5174 (Melinda.Brunner@alaska.gov). Please see our website for additional information:

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