



BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS FACT SHEET

May 2006

What is a DEC Brownfield Assessment? The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), with support from Region 10 EPA, wishes to assist non-profits, municipalities, local governments, and their communities by conducting environmental site assessments at potential brownfield sites. A brownfield site is a property where actual or potential environmental problems complicate site redevelopment. The intent of DEC Brownfield Assessments (DBAs) is to help reduce the environmental uncertainties associated with potential brownfield properties. DEC will pay for a contractor to conduct the work. The objectives of the DBA are the following:

- Determine whether a site is clean, slightly contaminated, or heavily contaminated
- Determine the nature and extent of contamination and its possible impact on the potential use of the property
- Identify potential cleanup options for the site, or further assessment requirements
- Provide an estimation of the cleanup costs (if any)

Who is eligible to apply? DBAs are available to local government, economic development districts or corporations, non-profit entities (such as community development organizations), Native corporations, and other government entities created by the State Legislature. The applicant must not have caused or contributed to the contamination at the site. The applicant does not have to own the site to apply.

What sites are eligible? All brownfield sites are eligible to participate if proposed by an eligible applicant. The DEC places a preference on property that is publicly owned with community-supported redevelopment plans in place. A brownfield site that is privately held may still be considered by DEC, but only if the project offers significant public benefit and EPA supports the effort.

How are projects selected? The selection process is guided by criteria used to help establish relative priorities among the properties in Alaska. The criteria include the following:

1. Property redevelopment is hindered by actual or perceived environmental impacts.
2. Property is owned by a local government entity or non-profit and the owner is not responsible for the contamination.
3. Viable redevelopment plans and community support for property revitalization exist.
4. The site has clear access.
5. The planned reuse has a clear economic or social benefit.
6. The site is currently abandoned or underutilized, not meeting its economic potential.
7. The potential cost of the assessment effort is within our funding capacity.

How do I apply? You must complete and submit a *DEC Brownfield Assessment Request Form*. Annual application periods and deadlines for submittal will be posted on DEC's brownfield website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/brownfields.htm>. DEC recommends that you work with our brownfield staff when completing your form. Once completed, email your form to John Carnahan, brownfield coordinator, at John_Carnahan@dec.state.ak.us or fax your request to John at (907) 451-2155. When evaluating your request, DEC staff may contact you for additional information.

Additional information and assistance: The selection of a site for a DEC Brownfield Assessment is in no way intended to imply that the DEC is accepting liability for any contamination that may exist at the site, nor is DEC responsible for any necessary cleanup of hazardous substances that may be found at the site. If you have any questions regarding this program or the application process, please call John Carnahan at (907) 451-2166 (John_Carnahan@dec.state.ak.us) or Sonja Benson at (907) 451-2156 (Sonja_Benson@dec.state.ak.us). Please see our website for additional information at:

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