



DEC Brownfields Program

Supporting the Cleanup and Reuse of Alaska's Brownfields

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Contaminated Sites Program

Background

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Contaminated Sites Program protects human health and the environment by managing the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater in Alaska. Many contaminated sites—due to their location, past historic or cultural significance, or other factors—may have unique drivers to incentive their cleanup and reuse. Recognizing these “brownfields” existed across Alaska, DEC created a program to help properties with an identified vision for reuse and strong community support get cleaned up and productively reused.

Since 2001, the DEC Brownfields Program has worked with local governments, tribes, and community stakeholders to assess, cleanup, and reuse brownfields to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of their communities. Recognizing the unique opportunities and challenges inherent to Alaska's brownfields given its size, remoteness, and history, the DEC Brownfields Program employs a multi-pronged approach to address and revitalize dormant properties across the state. Specifically, DEC:

- provides technical assistance and services through DEC Brownfields Assessment and Cleanups (DBAC) Program;
- provides regulatory guidance;
- assists stakeholders apply for and implement additional grants;
- facilitates community outreach and training; and
- manages its inventory of brownfield properties.

DEC Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) Services

DEC works closely with communities across Alaska to identify, assess, and cleanup brownfields to put those properties back into productive use. By assisting Alaskan tribes, native corporations, municipalities, and non-profits in conducting environmental site assessments and cleanups at brownfield sites, DBAC services help identify and reduce the environmental uncertainties or actual conditions. Since 2004, DEC has provided nearly 200 community and tribal partners an array of reports and resources to assist their projects navigate the brownfields development process. Through DBAC services, DEC helps communities:

- determine whether an environmental problem at a site is limiting its desired reuse;
- identify the nature and extent of contamination;

For More Information

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What are brownfields?

Brownfields are abandoned, unused, or underused properties that are hindered from desired reuse or redevelopment by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination.



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- identify recommendations for addressing potential contamination and estimate costs for additional assessment, if needed;
- identify cleanup options and provide an estimate of cleanup costs, if indicated; and
- conduct cleanup activities designed to enable reuse of a site.

Regulatory Guidance

The DEC Brownfields Program can assist stakeholders better understand and meet applicable state and federal environmental regulations and policies. Relevant laws and regulations may include, among others:

State Regulations:

- ❖ 18 Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 75.300-.396. Discharge Reporting, Cleanup, and Disposal of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances; and
- ❖ Alaska Statute (AS) 46.03.822. Strict Liability for the Release of Hazardous Substances.

Federal Laws, Regulations, and Policies:

- ❖ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund);
- ❖ Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (SBLRBRA, commonly known as the Brownfields Amendments); and
- ❖ Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act (BUILD).

In addition, DEC's Contaminated Sites Program has developed a number of [guidance and policy documents](#) on various parts of the cleanup process (characterization, cleanup level determination, risk, cleanup alternatives, etc.), which DEC's Brownfields Program can assist with finding and understanding.

Grant Application Assistance

The DEC Brownfields Program also helps educate Alaska's brownfield stakeholders about potential grant opportunities and other resources and make connections with the relevant agencies or parties offering financial or other technical support. For example, when an eligible entity applies for a competitive brownfield grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DEC can assist with application development (scoping, review/comment, etc.), and will write a letter to EPA in support of that application. Similarly, DEC can introduce interested parties to other sources of technical assistance, such as EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) providers and Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program.

Technical assistance provided through DBAC services include:

- Property Assessment and Cleanup Plans (PACPs)
- Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs)
- Phase I/Phase II Assessments
- Hazardous Building Materials (HBM) Surveys
- Site Remediation Planning and Activities



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Community Outreach and Training

Community outreach and training is an important component of the DEC Brownfields Program, which provides these services in a number of ways, including: developing outreach materials such as fact sheets, case studies, and issue papers; organizing annual trainings and workshops for State and Tribal Brownfield Response Programs; presenting on Alaskan brownfields topics at state and national conferences and providing these presentations on the DEC Brownfields website; and providing community-specific visioning sessions and communication planning.

State Contaminated Sites Database

To provide tribes, Village Corporations, Regional Corporations, municipal and borough governments, and other interested stakeholders with known information regarding potential contamination at a site, DEC maintains a database of contaminated sites that have been identified throughout Alaska. The DEC Brownfields Program ensures that brownfield sites that it supports or manages are included in the state database, as well as any relevant reports, as appropriate.