



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Waste Management
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
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FILE: North Dakota Brownfields Program

March 13, 2009

Dear Government Official(s):

This letter is to introduce you to the Brownfields Program which is administered by the Division of Waste Management. The opportunities this program provides for North Dakota communities are exciting.

As you may already be aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the Brownfields Program in 1995. The concept is to take contaminated, underdeveloped, unproductive property and convert it into productive real estate. Brownsfields sites are defined as abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial properties whose redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Here in North Dakota we tend to think of Brownsfields sites as large, abandoned industrial properties such as steel mills or large manufacturing plants located in cities like Chicago or Detroit. In reality, Brownsfields sites could be former service stations, dry cleaners, factories, warehouses, parking lots, hangers, lots where heavy equipment was stored or repaired, or bus facilities. These sites could be changed from potential liabilities into successful developments that will generate revenues and jobs for the community.

The Department has been active in the Brownsfields Program since 2002 and to-date has made possible the assessment and/or cleanup of 38 properties throughout the state. The Department has received its latest State Response grant from the EPA. The grant can be used by the Department for environmental assessment and cleanup activities at Brownfields sites. These activities include environmental activities preliminary to cleanup such as site assessment, site characterization and site response, or cleanup planning and design for areas that have an actual or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant as well as the actual remediation itself. Brownfields assessment funds may only be used at sites where there is release, or substantial threat of release, of a hazardous substance, or there is a release, or substantial threat of release of a pollutant or contaminant which may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare. In addition, funds may be used at sites where there is a reason to believe that a release has occurred or is about to occur. Examples of sites that have been addressed by the state's Brownfields Program include:

1. In January 2009, the former Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Mott, ND was assessed and remediated for asbestos floor tiles and sheet rock with funding provided by the Brownfields Program. The building is scheduled for demolition and the lot for redevelopment.
2. In November of 2008, an abandoned auto dealership with soil contamination and leaking underground storage tanks, located in Grafton, ND, was assessed and remediated with funding provided by the Brownfields Program. The property is scheduled for commercial redevelopment

We would expect that the city, county or local economic development group has plans for the property that involves:

1. Renovating the building for reuse;
2. Removing the existing building and rebuilding a new building for occupancy; or
3. Removing the building and creating a "green way/green space." This could be as simple as planting

grass and trees, and placing park benches on the site.

We will prioritize sites should the number and potential assessment costs for the sites submitted exceed available funds. We envision that factors such as level of contamination and community commitment toward cleanup and redevelopment will be considered during prioritization.

There is no limit on the number of sites an entity may submit for consideration under the program. If more than one site is submitted, we ask that they be prioritized so that we know which are most important locally for redevelopment. We encourage city leaders and county and economic development officials to discuss potential sites for submission.

We encourage you to visit our Division's Website at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/wm> and our Brownfields Website which has our guidelines for submitting an application and also links to EPA's Brownfields Websites.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Derek Hall at 328-5166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis L. Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Curtis L. Erickson, Manager
Hazardous Waste Program
Division of Waste Management