

EPA, DNR Sign Agreement Streamlining Cleanup Efforts In Wisconsin

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently signed an agreement between the two agencies that will expedite cleanups of contaminated properties.

“This agreement is great news,” DNR Secretary Scott Hassett said. “It confirms that our single, consolidated approach to cleaning up contaminated areas in Wisconsin is consistent with EPA’s One Cleanup Program Initiative. It will not only help property owners, developers and citizens better understand how meeting Wisconsin’s standards will satisfy both agencies, it will also help improve business creation and growth in those areas.”

The MOU, signed by Secretary Hassett and Mary A. Gade, Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA Region 5, is significant in that it is the first EPA-state agreement to fully address cleanup requirements across all major federal programs, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; and leaking underground storage tanks.

Department and EPA’s Region 5 staff have a history of working cooperatively to clean up and oversee the cleanup of contaminated properties. The original impetus to create this agreement came through Wisconsin’s Brownfields Study Group.

A copy of the MOA can be obtained at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/cleanup/ocp.htm>. For more information, please contact Mark Gordon, WI DNR’s Remediation and Redevelopment Program, at mark.gordon@wisconsin.gov.

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