



RR REPORT



A Bi-Monthly Update from the WDNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

September 10, 2009

Project Assistance

Applications Open for Round 11 Site Assessment Grants

The DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program is pleased to announce the 11th round of Brownfield Site Assessment Grants (SAG) is now open for applications. Funding is available for small grants (\$2,000 up to \$30,000) and large grants (\$30,000 up to \$100,000). Up to \$1.5 million has been budgeted for SAGs in Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) – the final amount, however, will depend on incoming state revenue and may be less than \$1.5 million. Applications for both large and small grants are due November 9, 2009.

These grants are available to help municipalities jump start investigation activities at brownfields, which are abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial properties where redevelopment is hindered by real or perceived contamination.

Any Wisconsin local government (city, village, town, county, redevelopment authority, community development authority or housing authority) or tribe is eligible to complete an application for a grant. While SAGs do not fund cleanups, the grants do fund the following activities:

- environmental site assessments;
- site investigations;
- demolition;
- asbestos removal associated with demolition; and
- removal of tanks, drums and other containers.

[Applications and instructions](#) for the grants are available at the RR Program's web site. This application is a fillable PDF form that is designed to be easily completed by a local government.

Please submit all SAG-related questions to Shelley Fox, Shelley.Fox@wisconsin.gov, (608) 266-5798.

Survey Examines Use of Federal Brownfields Tax Deduction

As reported in previous RR Report issues, Congress is considering extending the Federal Brownfields Tax Incentive. Also known as the Tax Expensing Program, it allows developers to deduct cleanup costs in the year that the remediation expenditures were incurred. The program is often not used by developers that appear to be eligible, and the Northeast Midwest Institute has created a survey to provide a factual basis for consideration of changes to the program. The short 5-question/5 minute survey is available [on-line](#).

The RR Program encourages environmental consulting firms and local government representatives to fill out the survey, especially since Wisconsin has been a national leader in the use of this brownfield incentive. More information about obtaining the federal tax deduction can be found on the [RR Program website](#).

Upcoming Events

All-Day Brownfields Seminar Two Weeks Out

If you represent a local government that is undertaking, or hoping to undertake a brownfield redevelopment project, there is still time to register for the DNR/FET seminar on September 24th. [Wisconsin Brownfields: Steps to a Successful Redevelopment Project](#) will be held from 9:00am-4:00pm at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. The event will feature learning sessions from fellow local government leaders and DNR experts, to give you a broad understanding of the process and benefits of brownfields and blight cleanup. This advice should help you *save money* and headaches as you make your neighborhoods more safe and productive.

To register, call FET at 262-437-1700, or visit their [website](#).

Brownfields News

Brownfield Grant Awards Announced

There has been a flurry of state and federal money awarded to brownfields projects this summer:

An [apartment project \[exit DNR\]](#) in Shorewood received a \$100,000 Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment (BEBR) Grant from the Department of Commerce;

Meanwhile, another BEBR Grant was announced for a [downtown Green Bay project \[exit DNR\]](#);

And, funding was announced for [two large Milwaukee projects](#) last month.

September Issue of ReNews Available Now

The [latest issue of ReNews](#) is now available to read on the RR Program web site. Topics in this latest edition include an in-depth look at a blight redevelopment undertaken by the city of Beaver Dam, an article on so-called "Historic Spills", and notes on what the RR Program is doing to encourage green remediation techniques.

ReNews is a quarterly publication of the RR Program, designed to feature a more in-depth look at issues surrounding environmental remediation and spills. Sign-up for ReNews at the RR Program's [newsletters page](#).