



State of Utah

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## U.S. EPA Awarded DEQ for Superfund Reuse Developments

SALT LAKE CITY —Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) employees were honored this week for their outstanding work as part of the Superfund program to clean up hazardous waste sites for reuse and development.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Utah with the inaugural State Excellence in Supporting Reuse Award, which recognizes effective partnering with the EPA and local governments to achieve lasting benefits that enhance community quality of life and ensure the long-term protection of site remedies and the environment.

“Our staff constantly ‘looks beyond the fence’ and seeks out creative ways to facilitate the reuse of Superfund sites statewide by working closely with the public,” said Brent Everett, director of DERR. “This award has motivated our staff to continue to be a national leader in administering the Superfund program in Utah.”

DERR’s work with stakeholders to identify ways to support reuses is garnering significant benefits for the local communities:

- More than 20 Superfund sites are currently in reuse or continued use.
- Eighty-three businesses and organizations at these sites employ more than 2,600 people, contribute an estimated \$141 million annual employment income and have approximately \$423 million in estimated annual sales.

EPA estimates that all of these figures are the highest of any state in the Rocky Mountains and Plains Region.

DERR works with the EPA, federal and local agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that Superfund sites are cleaned up to standards that are protective of human health and the environment, and also comply with state regulatory requirements. For more information about the Superfund program in Utah, visit [www.superfund.utah.gov/superfund.htm](http://www.superfund.utah.gov/superfund.htm).

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### About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah’s air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([@UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.