



Voluntary Cleanup Program/Brownfields

Fact Sheet – State Response Program Assessment Grant

Description: The purpose of the Brownfields State Response Program is to encourage the assessment and cleanup of sites where there has been a known or suspected contaminant release threatening public health and the environment. Addressing impacted properties protects public health and removes the stigma attached to these sites, which is often an impediment to economic development.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) was selected for a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes during EPA’s national competition in Federal Fiscal Year 2022.

What is a Brownfield: A Brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 Brownfields in the United States. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.

Project Overview: Utah has numerous communities which lack the resources to address and evaluate Brownfield properties or pursue Brownfields tools on their own. As a result, many Brownfields languish resulting in blight and lost economic opportunity while green fields are developed in their place. The DERR will implement a state-wide assessment project to help lessen the economic, social, environmental and health impacts of Brownfields within the state. The DERR will focus its project on communities which have a high potential for development as well as those with limited in-house resources, and/or disadvantaged populations. The overall objectives of this project are as follows:

- Community outreach and education to promote Brownfields awareness;
- Create a statewide inventory of Brownfields sites for internal use;
- Assess properties based on prioritization and community need; and
- Determine if further actions like additional assessment or environmental remediation are necessary to ensure protection of public health and facilitate redevelopment.

These objectives will be accomplished by both non-site-specific and site-specific activities proposed in the state work plan. Non-site-specific tasks include developing and periodically updating the inventory of potential Brownfield properties, obtaining contractor services to provide technical assistance and oversight and community involvement. Site-specific tasks include:

- Performing environmental site assessments, such as Phase I and II assessments;
- Conducting cleanup/reuse planning;
- Positioning sites for the Voluntary Cleanup Program, as necessary; and
- Determining whether further assessment or cleanup is required before redevelopment proceeds.

Community Benefit: The DERR views Brownfields as a “beneficial partnership” and seeks to foster a collaborative approach to assessing and cleaning up sites. The assessment services under this grant are conducted at no charge to Utah communities with eligible sites and can provide important information to help guide community planning and redevelopment efforts. To discuss options, please contact the Voluntary Cleanup Program/Brownfields coordinator at (801) 536-4100.