



BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS FACT SHEET

January 2009

What is a DEC Brownfield Assessment? The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) assists Alaskan communities by conducting environmental site assessments at potential brownfield sites. This service is provided through the Contaminated Sites Program's Reuse and Redevelopment Initiative. A brownfield site is a property where real or perceived environmental problems complicate the reuse or redevelopment of the site. The intent of DEC Brownfield Assessments (DBAs) is to help reduce the environmental uncertainties at these sites so that they can be put back into productive use. All work is done by DEC and its contractors. The objectives of a DBA are the following:

- Help determine whether an environmental hindrance exists at a site
- Help identify the nature and extent of contamination and its potential impact on the reuse of the property
- Make recommendations for additional assessment, if indicated
- Identify cleanup options and provide an estimation of cleanup costs for the site, if needed

How are projects selected? The selection process uses a set of brownfield-specific criteria to rank and prioritize the proposed properties. These criteria include the following:

1. How the reuse or redevelopment of the property is hindered by actual or perceived environmental conditions.
2. Ownership of the site (sites held by public entities, for which there is no viable or responsible party, receive a higher preference).
3. Plans for reuse or redevelopment and community support for revitalization of the property.
4. How the planned reuse has a clear and sustainable economic or social benefit.
5. The level of commitment on the part of the community to provide or leverage a monetary or in-kind contribution to help with the overall project.
6. Whether the potential cost of the assessment is within our funding capacity.
7. Whether the assessment is likely to further the reuse objectives of the applicant.

Who is eligible to apply? DBAs are available to public, quasi-public, and non-profit entities (such as municipalities, tribal governments, and community development organizations) interested in reusing or redeveloping abandoned or underutilized properties. The applicant must not have caused or contributed to the contamination at the site. The applicant does not have to own the site to request an assessment; however, they must be able to ensure access to the site.

What sites are eligible? Any brownfield site is eligible for a DBA. DEC places a preference on property that is publicly owned, with community-supported reuse or redevelopment plans in place. A brownfield site that is privately held may be considered, but only if the project can be shown to offer significant public benefit. A brownfield site that is owned by the state is also eligible.

How do I apply? You must fill out and submit a *DEC Brownfield Assessment Request Form*. Annual application periods and deadlines for submittal will be posted on DEC's brownfield website. DEC recommends that you work with our brownfield staff when completing your form. Email your completed form to Sonja Benson at Sonja.Benson@alaska.gov, or fax it to Sonja at (907) 451-2155. When reviewing your request, DEC staff may contact you for additional information.

Additional information and assistance: The selection of a site for a DBA in no way implies that DEC is accepting liability for any contamination that may exist at the site, nor is DEC responsible for any necessary cleanup of hazardous substances that may be found at the site. If you have any questions regarding this program or the application process, please call Sonja Benson at (907) 451-2156 (Sonja.Benson@alaska.gov), or call Deborah Williams at (907) 451-5174 (Deborah.Williams@alaska.gov). Please see our website for additional information:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/brownfields.htm>