

**Rockingham Planning Commission
Brownfield Assessment Program
Program Information**

Q: What is the RPC's Brownfields Assessment Program?

A: The RPC has received three separate grant awards from EPA to establish and maintain a Brownfields Assessment Program. The goal of the program is to work with member communities on the identification, assessment, and redevelopment of vacant or underutilized properties. There is no cost to property owners to participate in the program.

Q. What is a Brownfields?

A. A Brownfield is a property, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Sites include vacant auto repair shops, closed gas stations, old mills, and closed factories. The RPC may use the grant funds to hire a qualified environmental consultant to assist the RPC in developing and maintaining an inventory of Brownfield sites, conduct Phase I and Phase II Site Assessments on sites, and identify redevelopment options for sites. A Phase I Site Assessment is a desktop analysis of a site and involves researching existing reports, the DES database, historic Sanborn maps, talking with landowners, town officials, etc. A Phase II Site Assessment involves collecting and analyzing soil, water and other samples from a site to determine contamination type and extent. The information contained in the Phase I and Phase II Site Assessment reports can provide site owners and developers with information needed for site redevelopment and project budgets.

Q: What is an eligible site?

A: Eligible sites are defined by the Brownfields law as sites where "the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant". The Brownfields law also specifies grant funds can be used at sites that are contaminated by petroleum, a petroleum product or controlled substances, or are mine-scarred lands. The RPC works with its consultant, NH DES, EPA, and the RPC's Brownfields Program Advisory Committee to select sites for assessment.

Q: How can a site be enrolled in the Brownfields program?

A: If you are aware of a site that may be eligible for the Brownfields program, contact the RPC to discuss the property. The property owner must complete, sign, and submit a site enrollment form to the RPC. The form is available on the RPC website, www.rpc-nh.org/Brownfields. After reviewing the enrollment form and talking with the applicant, the RPC submits the enrollment form to EPA for approval. Once approved, the RPC will contact the applicant to schedule a site visit.

For more information, please contact:

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