



Rockingham Planning Commission

156 Water Street, Exeter NH 03833
PH: 603-778-0885 • FX: 603-778-9183
email@rpc-nh.org • www.rpc-nh.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: RPC Commissioners

FROM: Theresa Walker, RPC Natural Resources Consultant

DATE: November 9, 2005

SUBJECT: **Brownfields Assessment Grant Application**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & SUMMARY

The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) will be submitting a grant application to the US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant program in mid-December. The grant request will be for \$200,000, the bulk of which will go towards hiring a consultant to inventory and assess potential brownfields sites in the region. EPA defines brownfields as, “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” A brochure produced by the EPA is included in this attachment which provide an overview of the Brownfields Program.

A steering committee has been created to review the grant application, assist with hiring the consultant, and to review the consultant’s work products and progress. RPC staff attended an EPA workshop on the grant process last month.

The RPC’s grant application will highlight how the identification and clean-up of brownfield sites in the region will:

- create opportunities for reusing existing developed parcels of land, reducing pressure on remaining open space,
- create opportunities for mixed-use development,
- provide small communities with technical assistance and resources not regularly available to local government in our region.

A draft of the grant application will be available at the November 16th Commission meeting. Mike Wimsatt, NH DES Brownfields Coordinator, will also join us that night to talk about the program. In the meantime, please call or email me at theresawalker@comcast.net if you have questions about the program or our application.

More information about the brownfields program is available from these sources:

- EPA general information brochure: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pubs/04brochure.pdf>
- EPA Brownfields program website: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/about.htm>
- DES Brownfields website: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/BrownfieldsNH/>

