



Brownfields 2011 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet

Great Northern Development Corporation, Eastern Montana

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is 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. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Great Northern Development Corporation was selected to receive a brownfields assessment coalition grant. The Corporation's coalition partners are the Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, Inc., Southeastern Montana Development Corporation, Fort Peck Tribal Office of Environmental Protection, and North Cheyenne Tribe. The Corporation serves 15 counties (combined population 64,120) in eastern Montana. For many years, land use in the region has been dominated by farming and ranching, oil and gas development, and the railroad industry. The region contains hundreds of leaking underground storage tanks, and abandoned properties are common in rural and small metropolitan communities. These brownfields have highly visible locations and discourage tourism and private investment. Over the past decade, the region has seen a decline in employment and a shrinking tax base. The region has lost five percent of its residents during the past several years and currently has a higher poverty rate than the rest of the state. Brownfield assessments will help the Corporation identify the extent of contamination at sites and meet the goals of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Assessment Grant

\$500,000 for hazardous substances
\$250,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Great Northern Development Corporation for a brownfields assessment coalition grant. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 12 Phase I and eight Phase II environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to identify high-priority sites and conduct six Phase I and five Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to conduct cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 8 Brownfields Team
(303) 312-7074
EPA Region 8 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region8/brownfields>)

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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.