



RR REPORT

Important Updates from the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

July 23, 2015

Tank Cleanup Reimbursement Program Ending in 2020

Wisconsin's recently signed state budget calls for an end to the petroleum environmental cleanup fund award (PECFA) program on June 30, 2020. The PECFA program reimburses responsible parties for the cost of investigating and cleaning up environmental contamination associated with aboveground and underground petroleum storage systems – usually gas station tanks and home heating oil systems.

The Wisconsin DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program oversees the cleanup of contaminated sites and administers the PECFA program.

The budget includes the following provisions:

- July 19, 2015 was the cut-off date for new PECFA eligibility submittals. No new sites will be accepted into the PECFA program.
- All claims for reimbursement must be submitted within 180 days after incurring the eligible costs, or by 11:59 p.m. on February 1, 2016, whichever is later. The date the expense is incurred is the day the work is completed.
- The final deadline for submitting claims for reimbursement to DNR is June 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Claims received before that time will be reimbursed if eligible. Claims submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.

To help facilitate the review process of cost submittals, the goal of the program is to send approval/denial letters within 14 calendar days of receiving cost requests from the Usual and Customary schedule. For cost requests including a variance, approval/denial letters will be sent within 30 calendar days of the variance submittal.

The complexity of the site review and cost submittal could delay a response; consultants will be notified if the review will take longer than expected. For all PECFA sites from this point forward, the Department expects consultants to explain in writing the path to closure. This will help ensure that sites are moving toward final closure by the PECFA sunset date.

RR Program staff expect an increase in the number of claim submittals and eligibility requests in the coming weeks. As a result, processing claims may require an additional 6-8 weeks for the next few months.

If you have questions about this message, please contact [Tim Prosa](#), 608 261-7715 or [Tim Panzer](#), 608-267-2465.

Available Now: New Vapor Risk Screening Look-up Table; Q&A Scheduled for Late July

To assist practitioners with the recent change in the U.S. EPA's residential sub-slab vapor attenuation factor, Wisconsin DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program has prepared a new [Sub-slab Vapor Risk Screening Level \(VRSL\) Table](#). The new table is a companion to the [Quick Look-up Table for Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels \(VAL\)](#).

The new table shows the appropriate attenuation factor for residential, small commercial and large commercial/industrial buildings for select volatile organic chemicals. The new VRSL Table clarifies the relationship between the building use (residential and non-residential) and building size (small or large) in determining the appropriate sub-slab vapor risk screening level.

With EPA's new guidance on vapor intrusion and the resulting changes to the attenuation factors (AF) accepted in Wisconsin, the RR Program will host a special "VI Q&A" on **Wednesday, July 29, beginning at 12:00 p.m.** DNR Hydrogeologist Terry Evanson will discuss the recent revision to the sub-slab residential attenuation factor for assessing vapor intrusion risk. Terry will also discuss the application of attenuation factors for other media.

This presentation will be held via conference call. Handouts for the talk and the conference call instructions will be available on the [RR Program Training Page](#) in advance of the event.

August *Issues & Trends* Conference Call: Navigating the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) Program

The RR Program's *Issues & Trends* series continues in August with a presentation from the Land Recycling Team Leader, Michael Prager. Wisconsin's VPLE program allows an individual, business or unit of government that conducts an environmental investigation and cleanup of a contaminated property – following state requirements with the oversight of DNR staff – to receive an exemption from future environmental liability. Prager will highlight emerging issues in the program and discuss common questions and concerns.

- Date: August 5, 2015
- Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- Join by phone: 1-855-947-8255, passcode 6612 745#
- Questions prior to the event – send to DNRRRComments@wisconsin.gov

You can download handouts for this presentation a few days before the event and find a schedule of future [Issues & Trends webinars](#) on the [RR Program training webpage](#). A recording of this presentation will be available shortly after the conclusion of the event on the new [training library](#).

FET Seminar on Brownfields

The Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of FET will host a half-day seminar on brownfield issues on **September 17, 2015, in Kimberly**. The seminar runs from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program staff will give presentations on the following topics:

- Brownfield property acquisition issues;
- Financial assistance for brownfields;
- BRRTS on the Web & RR Sites Map; and
- Vapor intrusion considerations for community redevelopment.

DNR and WEDC staff will also outline opportunities for loans, grants and other financial incentives for assessment and cleanup. See the [agenda](#) for more details.

The registration deadline is September 11. Visit FET's website for [online registration](#).

EPA Funds Available for Tribes to Address Hazardous Waste

The U.S. EPA is [seeking proposals](#) from federally-recognized tribes or intertribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs and for building capacity to address hazardous waste management on tribal lands. Proposals are due July 31, 2015.

In accordance with the EPA Indian Policy of 1984, EPA recognizes tribal governments as the primary parties for managing programs for reservations. In an effort to maximize the benefits to tribes from the limited funding to support the Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes, the EPA has reassessed the criteria used to evaluate proposals submitted for funding through this grant program beginning in FY 2015. The goal of this effort is to provide technical assistance to a greater number of tribes for activities that involve hazardous waste management on tribal lands.

For more information, contact [Denise Roy](#) in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, (703) 308-8458.

Course on Sustainable Environmental Assessment

The University of Illinois at Chicago - Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health in coordination with the U.S. EPA are providing training on sustainable environmental planning.

The main purpose of the course is to enable local officials to meet federal HUD environmental assessment requirements stemming from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental authorities. Most of the training will examine the functional components of environmental review (e.g. Water, Historic Preservation) discussing current and best practices. The overarching theme will be Sustainable Development.

All federal projects come with environmental assessment responsibilities under NEPA, and many local governments now routinely include environmental considerations in their local decision making process. Environmental review allows local government and other stakeholders to identify and evaluate alternative sites and designs that can mitigate adverse impacts and/or lower long-term maintenance costs.

The course is being offered in Chicago **October 19-23, 2015**. See the [course website](#) for more information.

The Brownfields Event of the Season is Almost Here: Register Today for Brownfields 2015

It'll be years before the premier nationwide brownfields conference is once again this close to Wisconsin. Take advantage of the proximity and [register today](#) for the 16th National Brownfields Conference, scheduled for Sept. 2-4, 2015 in Chicago.

There will be great information and practical advice about environmental contamination, cleanups, financing opportunities and redevelopment. This premier conference is only held once every two years, in different states around the country. Economic development directors, planners, administrators and more will benefit by attending.

Since 1995, the National Brownfields Conference has been the most important date on the calendar for anyone working to create better communities by cleaning up and reusing brownfield properties. Mark your calendar and register today.

RR Program Staff Updates

Alyssa Sellwood, Vapor Intrusion Team Leader - Alyssa has worked as an environmental remediation engineer and scientist for last the 13 years and is excited to join the RR Program staff at DNR. Alyssa graduated from UW Madison in 2000 with undergraduate degrees in Geological Engineering and Geology & Geophysics, and in 2002 with a master's degree in Geological Engineering. Since then, she has worked in Madison in environmental consulting serving as a team leader, project manager, and technical resource on a wide range of contaminated sites and remediation projects. Alyssa's specific focus and interest has been in investigation and remediation on chlorinated solvent sites and development of site conceptual models. Alyssa is a Professional Engineer and brings to DNR her experience and expertise in vapor intrusion assessments and mitigation approaches for a wide range of sites and situations.

Jason Lowery, Superfund Site Assessment Team Leader - Jason recently accepted the Superfund Site Assessment Team Leader position in the RR Program. The Site Assessment Team is responsible for utilizing EPA grant money to identify and evaluate sites for potential inclusion in the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) and National Priorities List (NPL). Jason will continue in his role as the program Spills Coordinator until a replacement is hired. Jason has been the Spills Response Team Leader, Federal Removals Coordinator, and a Hydrogeologist in the RR Program since December 2012. He was also a Hydrogeologist at DATCP from 2008 to 2012 and a Hydrogeologist for Terracon from 2001 to 2008. He is a Wisconsin-licensed Professional Geologist, received his B.A. in Geology from Lawrence University in Appleton, and his M.S. in Hydrogeology from Illinois St. University.

Riley Neumann, Hydrogeologist – Riley recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a Bachelor's in Geoscience with an emphasis in hydrogeology. He will be assisting with stalled PECFA cases out of the Milwaukee office. Riley previously conducted research at UWM regarding Distributed Temperature Sensing fiber optics (DTS-FO).

Alice Egan, Hydrogeologist – Alice is the new liaison between the DOT and the DNR in the Milwaukee office. She recently earned her Master's degree from the UW-Milwaukee.

Upcoming ITRC Training

August 20: [Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment – A Resource When Alternatives to Default Parameters and Scenarios are Proposed](#)

August 27: [Petroleum Vapor Intrusion: Fundamentals of Screening, Investigation, and Management](#)