



RR REPORT

Important Updates from the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

November 18, 2016

Updated VPLE Insurance Fees

The Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) Insurance fee schedule ([RR-661](#)) is now updated and available on the DNR website. The VPLE program allows anyone to conduct an assessment and remedial action of an entire property with DNR oversight to obtain a liability exemption. Insurance is required for VPLE sites where groundwater contamination levels are above enforcement standards and the DNR determines that natural attenuation will restore groundwater quality.

The new insurance fees have gone down slightly and will be in effect until November 1, 2018. The application form, process, and the former use categories (commercial, light industrial, etc.) remain the same.

VPLE insurance is now provided through Ironshore Insurance Services. Any questions about this insurance requirement should be directed to [Michael Prager](#), (608) 261-4927.

Reminder: Electronic Copy of Site Progress Reports is Required

Responsible parties and their consultants are reminded that reports due to the RR Program under NR 700.11 must contain one paper copy and one electronic copy. The electronic copy helps the RR Program make these documents available in the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) and through BRRTS on the Web (BOTW).

If you have questions about this requirement, please contact your project manager or [Judy Fassbender](#), (608) 266-7278.

DNR Brownfields "Annual Accomplishments" Report Available

The RR Program's annual brownfields accomplishments report to US EPA, which details outputs and outcomes funded by a federal grant, is now available. The [Section 128\(a\) Grant Final Accomplishments Report](#), for the reporting period of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016, highlights work completed in past the funding year. Since 2003, the RR Program has consistently and efficiently used these funds to enhance state efforts with brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

Previous 128(a) reports can be found on the Brownfields Program [webpage](#).

New Hazardous Substance Spills Publication Available

RR Program staff have updated the popular “Reporting Hazardous Substance Spills” ([RR-560](#)) publication, available online for posting in your office or sharing with clients and colleagues.

Wis. Stat. § 292.11 (2) and Wis. Admin. § NR 706.5 require individuals and entities that possess or control a hazardous substance, or that cause the discharge of a hazardous substance to the environment to notify DNR immediately about the discharge. RR-560 summarizes reporting requirements, reporting exemptions, and DNR spill coordinator contact information. RR-560 is intended for use in businesses and other places where hazardous substance spills may occur, so that reporting requirements can be quickly determined and followed. It is also useful for local governments, environmental consultants, and individuals involved in commercial/industrial property construction and development.

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders - Economic Development Webinar Recording Available

Are you a local government representative searching for brownfield funding? Wondering what federal brownfield financial assistance is available beyond the EPA? In this webinar – [Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders - Economic Development](#) – you will hear from federal agencies such as the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, US Dept. of Agriculture-Rural Development and the US Economic Development Administration (part of US Dept. of Commerce), about practical and immediately useful information about the type of funding available and how to apply for it.

Brownfields Policy Forum set for Dec. 8 in Milwaukee

Cleanup and reuse experts from DNR and the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group (BSG) will be part of a presentation and discussion on brownfields redevelopment during a luncheon in Milwaukee on Dec. 8.

Darsi Foss, director of DNR’s Remediation and Redevelopment Program, and John Antaramian, Mayor of Kenosha and a long-time member of the BSG, will join Bob Monnat, a partner and COO of the award-winning Mandel Group, for a program titled “Brownfield Redevelopment: How Far Have We Come; Where Do We Go From Here?”

[Registration](#) for the event is \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Be sure to include “Dec. 8 Brownfields” in the “purpose of payment” field. The event will be held at The Best Place, 901 Juneau Ave. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m., with the program beginning at noon.

The event is hosted by WisPolitics and sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy for Global Education and Training, Eleven25@Pabst, UW-Milwaukee, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Police Association, and The Firm Consulting.

Groundwork USA Now Accepting Letters of Interest

Groundwork USA is now accepting Letters of Interest from communities wishing to begin the process of applying for Groundwork USA program funding and technical assistance and to join the Groundwork Network. Funding is currently available to select up to two new communities for the Groundwork

Program. Communities will be eligible for up to \$200,000 in funding and technical assistance from the National Park Service, US EPA, and Groundwork USA to plan, establish, and build the capacity of Groundwork Trust organizations in their communities. For complete details on the application and selection process, including eligibility requirements, submission details, and evaluation criteria, [download the Call for Letters of Interest](#). Letters of Interest must be received by Groundwork USA by February 1, 2017.

If you have questions about the application process, please [contact Anjali Chen](#), Trust Services Director at Groundwork USA. For more information about Groundwork USA, please visit www.groundworkusa.org.

EPA Extends Grant Proposal Submission Deadline

Recently the EPA became aware of a planned server maintenance shutdown to grants.gov taking place Saturday, December 17, 2016, to Monday, December 19, 2016 at 6:00 AM ET. During that time, the system will not accept application submissions, so the EPA is allowing additional days for applicants to have every opportunity to successfully submit their application. Note, this extension does not impact the rest of the competition schedule.

Additionally, EPA is using this opportunity to address two discrepancies in the Assessment Guidelines and add an Other Factor for natural disasters to capture those affected by Hurricane Matthew, etc. **Please** review this information on the [EPA Brownfields website](#).

KSU TAB Offers to Provide Free Review of Draft U.S. EPA Grant Proposals

TAB EZ is now updated to reflect the FY17 EPA Assessment & Cleanup proposal guidelines. TAB EZ, at www.ksutab.org, provides a template, configured for the type of Assessment or Cleanup proposal you are writing, to draft your proposal. Drafts can be exported to an MSWord (.doc) file for final editing and packaging before submittal.

Kansas State University – Technical Assistance for Brownfields can provide free review of draft EPA Assessment and Cleanup proposals for applicants from [EPA Regions 5, 6, 7 & 8](#). Please provide one week's advance notice that you will be sending a draft to review. It generally takes a few days to get the proposals back to you. The review is free of charge. Please contact Blase Leven (baleven@ksu.edu, 785-532-0780) to reserve your spot.

Request for Proposals (RFP) – Fiscal Year 2017 EJ Small Grants

The Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants solicitation is now open. Under this [RFP](#), EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each.

Applications are due on January 31, 2017 by 11:59 PM (ET). EPA requires applications for EJ grants to be submitted electronically through the Grants.gov website. Hardcopy mailed or delivered applications are only accepted if the applicant has a waiver on file.

For more information, see: Grants.gov and <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program#rfp>

DNR Secretary Tours Merrill Brownfields

DNR Sec. Cathy Stepp (center) leads a “[Cabinet on the Road](#)” tour of Merrill, Wis. The group paused for a photo in front of the River Bend Trail, a bicycling and walking path that winds its way along the Wisconsin River and passes through a handful of brownfield cleanup sites that the City and DNR have teamed up to address, including the former Hurd Manufacturing property.



In the photo are (L to R): Christine Haag, DNR; David Johnson, City of Merrill; Ken Maule, Merrill Area Development Corporation; DNR Sec. Stepp; John Robinson, DNR; Marie Steenlage, WEDC; Gary Hartwig, Merrill Area Development Corporation; Tim Weber, WEDC; John Gozdziński, DNR.

Gov. Scott Walker kicked off the Cabinet on the Road series last July as a way for the administration to hear directly from citizens about important matters affecting their communities.

Upcoming ITRC Training

Nov. 29 – [Geophysical Classification for Munitions Response](#)

Dec. 1 – [Mining Waste Treatment Technology Selection](#)

Dec. 6 – [Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization](#)

Dec. 8 – [Biochemical Reactors for Mining-Influenced Water](#)

Dec. 13 – [Integrated DNAPL Site Strategy](#)