



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Minnesota Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program

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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has grant funds available to conduct environmental assessments at eligible brownfield sites proposed for redevelopment or reuse. This fact sheet provides background information about the MPCA's Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program (MNTBAP) and instructions for applying for MNTBAP assistance.

What are brownfield sites?

Brownfield sites are vacant, abandoned, or underutilized, industrial or commercial properties where reuse and/or redevelopment is hindered by known or suspected environmental contamination. Parties considering purchase or use of these sites are often concerned about taking on potential liability for the contamination.

What is the targeted brownfield assessment program?

The MNTBAP enables the MPCA to hire environmental consultants to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments of eligible brownfield properties. A Phase I environmental assessment is, generally, the first step in a site investigation and involves review of current and historical site operations and other relevant information sources in order to evaluate potential environmental concerns at a property. A Phase II environmental assessment is the next step and may involve the collection of soil, groundwater, and other types of environmental samples needed to determine if contamination is present and if so at what concentration.

The MNTBAP is funded with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through national brownfields legislation. This legislation titled the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (the Brownfields Revitalization Act) became law in January 2002. One of the provisions of the Brownfields Revitalization Act authorizes funding to states for brownfields-related activities.

What are the selection criteria for targeted brownfield assessment assistance?

Sites eligible to receive MPCA's MNTBAP assistance include:

- any sites located within Minnesota (regardless of geographic location)
- sites publicly-or privately owned that have community involvement and support
- sites where real or perceived contamination from hazardous substances and/or petroleum have prevented property reuse
- sites where the environmental assessment will stimulate or facilitate property reuse
- sites that convert Brownfields to Greenfields are also an appropriate use of MNTBAP assistance (see MNTBAP Brownfields to Greenfields Fact Sheet on the MPCA Brownfield Web site)

The MPCA will give preference to sites that show a commitment by a unit of government, a non-profit organization, or a community organization to complete the brownfield redevelopment process. Preference will also be given to sites where the proposed reuse contributes to a broader vision benefiting the community.



It is important to note, brownfield sites scheduled to receive TBA grant assistance from a local unit of government or other eligible entity that has received a grant from EPA are not eligible to receive additional assistance from the MNTBAP. This program is funded by EPA. In addition, brownfield sites where contamination can be attributed directly to the applicant will generally be disqualified for consideration.

How can I apply for funding?

The MNTBAP is administered through the agency's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program. The application process is informal and applications can be made at any time. Awards will be based on eligibility, completeness of applications, the strength of community support and the availability of funds. To apply complete the following steps (all forms are available on the MPCA Brownfield Web site):

- Fill out a MNTBAP Application form.
- Generate an application letter on public letterhead using the MNTBAP generic letter template.

- Attach a signed MPCA Assess Agreement form (allows MPCA access to the property for assessment work).
- Attach any supporting information to the letter including site photos, governmental resolutions supporting the project, information regarding collaborators, development plans and letters of support.

Please send the completed applications to:

MNTBAP Coordinator
MPCA Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program
Remediation Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

For more information

If you have questions, are requesting information, or require assistance to apply please contact the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.

The MPCA Web site: www.pca.state.mn.us.