

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources s. 128(a) Grant Accomplishments

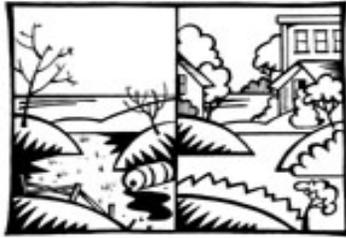


Report Period

September 1, 2007 to
February 29, 2008



(blank page)



Introduction

This mid-year report summarizes the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR's) use of its s. 128(a) grant money on state response programs and public record requirements from September 1, 2007, through February 29, 2008. The activities in this report are those included in the approved cooperative agreement work plan.

WDNR was awarded EPA Section 128(a) funds beginning on September 1, 2003, to enhance its state response program. This federal grant is used to support federal and state programs under the jurisdiction of WDNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) program, including:

- high-priority leaking underground storage tanks (LUST);
- RCRA hazardous waste closures and corrective actions;
- state enforcement; and
- voluntary cleanup actions.

Financial Status

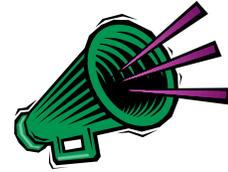
On September 11, 2007, EPA awarded WDNR \$1,409,536 in Section 128(a) funding for the period September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008. With these funds, Wisconsin DNR is now in its fifth consecutive year of receiving Section 128(a) funding. The WDNR Bureau of Finance Grant Query System indicates that WDNR had earned \$597,676 as of January 31, 2008. At this rate of earning, WDNR will fully earn the grant by August 31, 2008. We report no slippage, work plan problems, cost overruns or adverse conditions, per 40 CFR Part 31.40.

Contents of this Report

1. Report Period Highlights - page 2
2. Public Record Requirements - page 4
3. Timely Inventory and Survey - page 5
4. Oversight and Enforcement Activities - page 7
5. Mechanisms and Resources for Public Participation
Outreach - page 9
Financial Assistance- page 14
6. Mechanisms for Approval of Cleanup Plans, Verification and Certification - page 16
7. Attachment - WDNR Regional Brownfield Outreach Activities

Section 1 Report Period Highlights

- A. Financial Assistance
- B. One Cleanup MOA
- C. Regional Brownfield Seminars
- D. State Brownfield Legislation Implementation
- E. Revolving Loan Fund Activities
- F. Urban Reinvestment Initiative
- G. On-Line Map & Database
- H. Completed Cleanups & Redevelopment Assistance



A. Financial Assistance

In this report period, WDNR:

- awarded \$1.7 million in state Site Assessment Grants (SAG) for 46 projects at abandoned or underused properties in the ninth round of SAG awards;
- began receiving applications for round three of our Green Space and Public Facilities Grants to help local governments and tribes clean up brownfield sites for long-term public benefits;
- awarded five new Ready for Reuse hazardous substance grants, funded through EPA's Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund;
- continued our Urban Reinvestment Initiative with the City of Milwaukee and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation;
- supported 11 federal brownfield grants and provided four pre-certifications for the federal brownfield tax deduction.

Please see the financial portion of our Public Participation pages on page 14 for more information.

B. One Cleanup MOA

This MOA further supports WDNR's goal of simplifying environmental cleanups through a single, consolidated approach under the NR 700 series of administrative rules. Over the past six months, WDNR has almost completed guidance on the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in accordance with the One Cleanup Plan Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA. Please see page 9 of our Oversight and Enforcement Activities for more information.

C. Regional Brownfield Seminars

WDNR outreach staff conducted six regional brownfield seminars for local government officials, realtors, developers, environmental consultants and others. Please see our discussion on page 9 for more information.

D. State Brownfield Legislation Implementation

1. Land Use Controls - Wisconsin property owners, or others with a legally enforceable responsibility to comply, are responsible for implementing and maintaining the environmental land use controls established in the state's closure (cleanup approval) letter. The state is responsible for maintaining an Internet-based registry of land use controls, WDNR's GIS Registry. In this report period WDNR finalized 12 new database action codes to help users identify the specific land use controls established at each property.
2. Unlicensed Waste Disposal Facilities – Unlicensed landfills are now eligible for WDNR's Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) and Wisconsin's local government unit (LGU) liability exemption. In this reporting period WDNR has:
 - fully implemented procedures to determine whether a property contains solid wastes, and whether the waste facility was ever licensed;
 - finalized guidance for staff and the public about applying for a VPLE or LGU exemption on property with unlicensed waste disposal;
 - completed a comprehensive list of waste disposal sites licensed by the State of Wisconsin since 1969;
 - initiated guidance for LGUs that want to apply for a LGU liability exemption at a waste disposal site where land use controls are required;
 - began review of eight VPLE applications to determine whether the properties contain solid wastes, identified one unlicensed waste facility, determined that property was eligible, determined that seven others did not include waste disposal, and confirmed that one additional property was not VPLE eligible due to a licensed landfill, and;
 - approved applications for two LGU liability exemptions for property that contained unlicensed solid waste disposal.

E. Revolving Loan Fund Activities

WDNR has continued implementation of its 2004 Revolving Loan Fund from the EPA, including an additional \$1.5 million in supplemental hazardous substance funds from EPA received in this report period. We also submitted to EPA a new Revolving Loan Fund grant application in October for \$3 million in hazardous substance funds. Please see page 14 for more information about activities in this report period.

F. Urban Reinvestment Initiative

WDNR, the City of Milwaukee and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation continued assessing properties in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. In this report period WDNR received an additional \$400,000 in federal assessment funds to stimulate brownfield redevelopment in this economically challenged area of north Milwaukee. Please see our section on Mechanisms and Resources for Public Participation for more information (page 15).

G. On-Line Map & Database

WDNR continues to provide the public with information about contaminated land and groundwater through both database and GIS map applications, with information about ongoing

work and completed cleanups, environmental liability and the funding tools employed. In this report period WDNR has upgraded and deployed a new version of our GIS application, the RR Sites Map, offering better functionality. In addition, WDNR has completely restructured its Automation Team and has initiated a strategic plan for information technology services. Please see our section on Public Record Requirements below for more information.

H. Completed Cleanups & Redevelopment Assistance

In this report period WDNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program has:

- reviewed and approved 222 requests for case closure, thereby completing the investigation and cleanup of these contaminated properties, and
- satisfied 34 requests for redevelopment assistance, such as brownfield liability clarifications.

Section 2 Public Record Requirements

Our public record requirements are met through our two public systems.

- A. Searchable Electronic Database
- B. Geographic Information System (GIS) Map



In this report period, WDNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program has completely restructured its Automation Team and assigned supervisors to the team in order to bring more attention and authority to our information technology (IT) needs. These supervisors are currently recruiting for a permanent Team Leader who will also function as the GIS expert for the Remediation and Redevelopment Program. In addition, we are developing a strategic plan for IT services, with goals that include increasing staff efficiency, improving the quality and completeness of data available to the public, increasing outreach and access to technology, and promoting the use of online resources. This strategic plan will help us move to the next level in addressing IT needs, and includes working with other WDNR programs such as Waste and Materials Management to improve shared of on-line information.

A. Searchable Electronic Database

WDNR maintains comprehensive, searchable statewide public records in our on-line database, showing all confirmed contamination incidents that have been reported to the state. Our database, the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) holds over 66,500 public records, including:

- locations of on-going and completed cleanups,
- spill and abandoned containers responses,
- liability exemptions and clarifications,
- brownfield grants and loans,
- approvals for development on abandoned landfills,
- property tax cancellations and assignments, and
- activities where WDNR has determined that no investigation or cleanup is required.

Our database application, BRRTS on the Web, is on-line at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brrts/index.htm.

B. RR Sites Map GIS Application

In this report period we have completed and deployed a new version of the RR Sites Map, our GIS application. This new version offers more functionality for both staff and the public and was designed based on comments received from staff and external customers during a test period. It greatly improves the display of site locations and the associated information, and also provides advanced tools that allow users to develop their own customized maps. We invite readers to check it out at dnrmaps.wisconsin.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=brrts2.



This on-line map provides an alternative to sifting through our database, BRRTS on the Web, and holds WDNR's GIS Registry of environmental land use controls. In addition, it contains map layers showing technical details, liability relief tools that have been employed and state funding that has been used. Each point on the map links to more information in our database. This map helps local officials, environmental professionals and the public find contaminated properties in their area and any environmental land use controls associated with those properties.

Table 1 - Summary of Public Record Activities

	Mid Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
Total Active LUST & non-LUST Cleanups ¹	4541		--
Properties with Active LUST & non-LUST Cleanups ²	4258		--
Completed Site Cleanups by WDNR, this report period	222		--
Properties with Completed Cleanups by WDNR ² , this report period	205		300
Acres Ready for Reuse ³ , this report period	731		200

¹ Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) and other significant contamination sites, excluding spills that are cleaned up quickly and sites where WDNR determines that no remedial action is required.

² There may be more than one contaminated site at a single property.

³ In addition, there were seven sites with more than 100 acres, or contamination in a right-of-way.

Section 3

Timely Inventory and Survey

The WDNR uses a portion of its s. 128(a) funds to inventory and survey the universe of contaminated sites in Wisconsin using these three methods:

- A. Proactive Site Discovery
- B. Evaluation of Historic Disposal Sites
- C. Geo-Location of Contaminated Properties

A. Proactive Site Discovery

Proactive site discovery includes these components:

- WDNR staff routinely educate those who may cause contamination and those who may own contaminated properties about their legal obligation to report contamination to WDNR.
- WDNR provides financial and liability incentives for the investigation and cleanup of contaminated property in order to encourage those responsible for contamination to comply with their obligation to report it and take responsibility. These include:
 - WDNR's Brownfield Site Assessment and Green Space & Public Facilities grants, mechanisms to help communities identify and clean up contaminated properties;
 - Wisconsin's Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program, including outreach to the dry cleaning industry, municipalities, strip mall owners and business associations;
 - Liability clarifications and liability exemptions for local governments and private parties, increasing the likelihood that contaminated properties will be reported to WDNR;
 - Database tracking of situations where the source of contamination can not be immediately identified, in order to promote future evaluation of potential sources of the contamination; and
 - Evaluating groundwater-monitoring data for solid waste landfills in order to identify discharges to the environment.

B. Evaluation of Historic Disposal Sites (Registry of Waste Disposal Sites)

WDNR is continuing our evaluation of the list of historic waste disposal sites in Wisconsin, listed in our "Registry of Waste Disposal Sites" printed in 1984. This list includes over 4,000 sites where solid or hazardous wastes were reported to have been deposited. To conduct an evaluation, staff review the accuracy and environmental significance of information in the Registry through physical inspections of the sites and review of related state records. After evaluation, we ensure that any sites where there has been a discharge of a hazardous substance are in our database of contaminated sites.

Those locations where there are no environmental impacts from historic waste disposal will be added to a historic landfill database. The end product of these reviews will help the public understand the risks associated with these old waste disposal sites, ease property transactions and redevelopment, help in making informed land-use decisions and aid in selecting locations for public and private wells. In this report period we evaluated 135 new sites.

C. Geo-Location of Contaminated Properties

WDNR uses s. 128(a) funds to help support permanent staff who coordinate the work of our part-time, state-funded employees who complete the geo-location of contaminated properties in Wisconsin so that they may be displayed on our RR Sites Map. We continue to make significant progress toward our goal of geo-locating all contaminated properties where an investigation of contamination has been completed. In this report period we located 706 sites on the map. We also reduced staff time per geo-location by a full hour, to 1.4 hours, which is below our 1.5 hour goal.

Table 2 - Summary of Inventory and Survey Activities

	Mid Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
New Sites in BRRTS Database, this report period	179		--
New Properties in BRRTS Database, this report period	173		200
Waste Registry Evaluations, this report period	135		250
Staff Hours per Waste Registry Evaluation	19.7 hours		20 hours
Sites Geo-located on RR Sites Map, this report period	706		250
Staff hours per Geo-location	1.4 hours		1.5 hours
Closed Sites Added to GIS Registry, this report period	353		500

Section 4 Oversight and Enforcement

Our oversight and enforcement activities fall into three primary areas:

- A. Pipeline Acceleration
- B. Audits of Institutional Controls
- C. Streamlining - One Cleanup Program

A. Pipeline Acceleration

WDNR continues to contact owners of contaminated properties who need to start, continue or complete clean-ups at locations where WDNR has seen no recent response activities. Sites that fall under our pipeline acceleration initiative are those that have not made documented progress within the last two years, i.e. sites in our database where we have not recorded an action in that time period. An action represents an activity by the responsible party, such as submitting a site investigation report, or an action taken by WDNR, such as the approval of a remedial action plan.

We continue to progress in reducing the number of sites that have not shown progress in two years. Currently, there are 1,559 sites with no activity recorded in the most recent two years (since February 28, 2006). This has dropped from 1,807 sites that we reported last time. In the six months of this report period, the RR Program sent 55 “push” letters to responsible parties restating their requirements to continue environmental cleanups. This and other methods have resulted in a total of over 220 sites returned to active status in this report period.

Table 3 - Pipeline Acceleration

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D (Column B minus Column C)
Year of Last Recorded Activity at Site	As of Sept. 1, 2007: # of sites with no activity since the year in Column A	As of Feb. 29, 2008: # of sites with no activity since the year in Column A	Number of Sites Moving Again
1986	38	35	3
1990	64	57	7
1994	131	119	12
1998	259	242	17
2002	699	614	85
2004	1066	947	119
2005	1356	1207	149
2006	1690	1470	220

B. Audits of Institutional Controls

WDNR began auditing land use (aka institutional) controls in 2003, in response to concerns about their long-term maintenance. Site-specific land use controls are identified in the state’s cleanup approval letter, available to the public on the internet in our GIS Registry. Land use control audits evaluate selected properties for compliance with the conditions of their land use control, such as maintaining pavement over a contaminated area. These audits are completed regardless of changes in property ownership, as the land use control also applies to subsequent property owners. An audit consists of a review of the state’s file, an interview with the site owner, a visit to the property and a written summary of results.

We use our database to track the number of audits we have completed and to note any state follow-up actions. Of the nine sites inspected in this report period, all were in good condition and in compliance with the requirements of their cleanup and case closure approvals. Staff time spent on the audits averaged 25 hours in this report period.

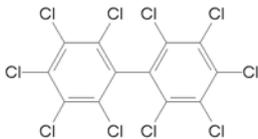
During the previous report period, WDNR inadvertently completed only 45 of the 50 audits that we had established as our goal. We therefore intend to complete five extra audits, for a total of 55, during the current grant.

Table 4 - Summary of Oversight and Enforcement Activities

	Mid Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
Pipeline Acceleration (“Push” Letters)	55		100
Audits of Institutional Controls	9		55
Staff Hours per Institutional Control Audit	25		15

C. Streamlining - One Cleanup Program

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) helps achieve WDNR’s goal of simplifying environmental cleanups through a single, consolidated approach under the NR 700 series of administrative rules. All licensed hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities under WDNR review are subject to the MOA if they are in compliance with their license. In addition, all hazardous waste facilities where WDNR has issued a corrective action order are subject to the MOA if the facility is in compliance with the order. The polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) provisions in the MOA generally place PCB sites under WDNR review when they fall into one of the following categories:



1. PCB contamination originating from spills prior to April 18, 1978, regardless of contaminant concentrations;
2. PCB contamination originating from spills on or after April 18, 1978, but prior to July 2, 1979, where contaminant concentrations are at or above 50 parts per million (ppm) and less than 500 ppm; and
3. PCB contamination originating from spills on or after July 2, 1979, when the concentration of PCBs in the substance that was spilled was less than 50 ppm.

Over the past six months, WDNR has developed guidance for staff and private consultants on oversight of PCB cleanups in Wisconsin, in accordance with the One Cleanup Plan MOA. The MOA is being utilized for the Glatfelter Paper Company cleanup and redevelopment project, a large waterfront redevelopment site in Neenah, on Lake Winnebago. The MOA is on WDNR’s web site at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/cleanup/ocp.htm.

**Section 5
Mechanisms and Resources for Public Participation**

WDNR continues its outreach activities by funding staff to develop outreach materials, maintain comprehensive web pages, coordinate green team meetings (clean up and redevelopment) with interested communities, make presentations, market state and federal brownfield grants and loans, and coordinate the work of the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group. WDNR’s public participation activities fall into two primary areas:

- A. Public Outreach Activities
- B. Financial Assistance to Communities

A. Public Outreach Activities



1) Meetings with Municipalities

In this report period three of WDNR's five regions conducted these six regional outreach seminars:

- a) a "town social" in Winnebago County, with nine participants from six towns, villages and cities with populations under 10,000 meeting WDNR project manager in an informal evening get-together to discuss contaminated land concerns and brownfield cleanup and redevelopment tools, with demonstrations of the Contaminated Lands Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), success story displays and brownfield success stories; all participants stayed after the presentations for further talk, and one community anticipates applying for a WDNR Brownfield Site Assessment Grant;
- b) three sessions, in Rhinelander, Superior and Ladysmith for consultants, realtors, developers and local government officials to learn about brownfields, land use controls and building on abandoned landfills;
- c) two consultant days in south central region attended by more than 80 local government officials and brownfields practitioners, with demonstrations of the new CLEAN network and brownfield financial and liability incentive information.

In addition, brownfield regional staff also held more than 40 meetings and/or gave presentations to key brownfields audiences, including local government officials, community organizations, environmental consultants and attorneys, and other interested publics. These audiences included (but were not limited to) local officials from Chippewa, Eau Claire, Green, Monroe and Winnebago counties; from the villages/towns of Albion, Altoona, Bay City, Belleville, Dunn, Galesville, Glenwood City, Grantsburg, Marathon, Mercer, Norwalk, Onalaska, Woodville and Wyocena; and from the cities of Appleton, Baraboo, Beloit, Green Bay, Janesville, Madison, Milton, Oconomowoc, Marshfield, Mauston, Milwaukee, Prairie du Chien, Tomah and Wausau.

Staff also met with/presented to officials and individuals with Ayres Associates, Canadian Pacific Railroad Real Estate, Madison Area Technical College, northeast Wisconsin well drillers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) realtors from Eau Claire, La Crosse and Tomah, Samuels Group, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Wisconsin Realty Association (south central region). Staff also made contacts via telephone and email with more than 150 village, towns and city officials and other stakeholders about state brownfield redevelopment tools.

Additional public participation and outreach activities included:

- an October breakfast seminar in Green Bay on the Wisconsin Brownfields Insurance Program (WBIP), held in conjunction with AIG, the state's insurance broker; outreach included information sent to target audiences, including consultants and local governments across Wisconsin, as well as information on the web and in our electronic newsletters; for more information about how WBIP helps developers, businesses and local governments manage the risks of unplanned brownfield expenses, please see dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/wbip.htm.
- a public survey of our GIS application, the *RR Sites Map* before the new version went on-line;

- continued outreach on WDNR’s “Ready For Reuse” grant and loan program, funded by our Revolving Loan Fund grant from EPA, with a new total of \$5.5 million in funding for communities to clean up and reuse of brownfield;
- eight new brownfield success stories for use on the web and in program newsletters, annual reports, and for various time-critical outreach needs.
- Announcement of a new rolling application process for the WDNR’s Green Space and Public Facilities Grants; outreach included targeted outreach to local governments and others through the *RR Report* and *Re News* electronic newsletters;
- continued outreach on the WDNR’s “Ready For Reuse” grant and loan program, with \$5.5 million in total funding to communities for the cleanup and reuse of brownfields;
- two quarterly meetings with private consultants in our Technical Focus Group, covering topics including vapor intrusion, PCBs, PAHs, case closure, LUST reporting, redevelopment on licensed and unlicensed landfills and administrative rule changes;
- presented WDNR information and/or staffed booths at meetings of the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Municipal Treasurers Association and the Wisconsin Land Information Association; and
- co-hosting of a technical seminar on vapor intrusion in Milwaukee, with the Federation of Environmental Technologists.

2) News Releases and Newsletters

In this report period WDNR produced these news releases:



- a state-wide news release to more than 500 media outlets announcing the opening of round nine of WDNR’s Site Assessment Grant Program, in addition WDNR did targeted outreach to local governments and other interested brownfield parties;
- a state-wide news release to more than 500 media outlets announcing our new web page for brownfield redevelopment success stories; the page hosts more than 30 stories from around the state with “before” and “after” photos of the brownfield properties as well as information about the state and federal financial and liability tools each community utilized in their redevelopment; and
- a state-wide news release to more than 500 outlets announcing the upgraded *RR Sites Map*, our on-line GIS application, with map layers for contaminated and cleaned up sites, use of state financial tools, use of liability relief tools and cleanups with residual contamination and land use controls.

WDNR produced these newsletters in this report period.

- Re News Volume 17 Number 3
- Re News Volume 17 Number 4
- West Central Region RR Update
- eleven *RR Reports*, our condensed electronic announcements

3) Our Internet Presence

New web pages in this report period include:

- Contaminated Lands Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)

In this report period, WDNR introduced the new Contaminated Lands Environmental Action Network (CLEAN). CLEAN is our inter-linked system of information about contaminated properties and clean-up activities in Wisconsin, and includes our *BRRTS on the Web* database and our web-based mapping system (*RR Sites Map*), presented to the public with new information about the contents of these systems. These web pages continue to be some of the most requested web pages in the RR Program. To view the new CLEAN web pages, please see dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/clean.htm.

- Environmental Liability

WDNR completely redesigned and streamlined three of its main liability pages: environmental liability overview, liability exemption for lenders and representatives, and off-site liability. Visit these web pages at:

- dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/liability/index.htm;
- dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/liability/lenders.htm; and
- dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/liability/offsite.htm.

- New Chart For 30th Street Properties

WDNR has added a new, detailed chart of brownfield properties being assessed in Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor. Through EPA brownfield funding, the Remediation and Redevelopment Program and the city of Milwaukee are targeting key areas in the 30th Street Corridor for assessment, with hopes of jump starting these properties toward cleanup and redevelopment. The new chart includes the current status for each property, assessment activities conducted, and redevelopment plans. You can see the chart on the RR Program's 30th Street web page at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brownfields/uri-30th-street.htm#chart.

- Wisconsin Waterfront Initiative Web Site

WDNR provided significant text to the new Wisconsin Waterfront Initiative web site, housed at the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. WDNR contributions included information for the *Funding and Resources* and *Best Practices* web pages. The Waterfront Initiative web site is at commerce.wi.gov/cd/cd-wwi-home.html.

- Web Maintenance

Recognizing the importance of providing reliable information on the internet, WDNR has updated an additional 74 web pages, in addition to the new content listed above

4) Publications

We are continually creating and updating fact sheets to ensure that our customers have accurate information. We finalized these 12 new publications in this report period.

- DeForest Parks Automotive Success Story
- Delton Family Medical Center Success Story
- La Crosse Xcel Trail Success Story
- Northend Salvage Success Story
- Riverside Park/Leach Amphitheater Success Story
- Shields Creamery Success Story
- Trolley Square Success Story
- Veterans Memorial Park Success Story

- Waunakee Stokely Canning Success Story
- Assessment Guidance for Sites with Residual Weathered Product
- Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF) - Frequently Asked Questions
- Assessment Guidance for Sites with Residual Weathered Product



5) Brownfields Study Group

The Brownfields Study Group, a non-partisan advisory task force established by the State Legislature in 1998, continues to meet and identify policy, fiscal and legal improvements in Wisconsin's brownfields initiatives, under the facilitation of the DNR's brownfields staff.

In November, members met in West Allis to discuss the state budget and a potential shortfall due to lack of incoming state revenue. Thanks in part to support by interested brownfield parties like the Study Group, the final 2007-2009 State Biennial Budget included adequate funding for all current staff and to continue cleanup and redevelopment work through WDNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program (see fall, 2007, 128(a) report for more information about the Study Group's support letters).

In addition to hearing updates on state brownfields funding programs like SAG and Green Space, the group also discussed new state legislation introduced to clarify municipal debt obligations related to the DNR's "Ready For Reuse" Program, recent federal brownfields legislation and federal All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) requirements and our new "Wisconsin Initiative For Sustainable Cleanups" (WISC), which staff hope will integrate sustainability components into state-funded cleanups.

In early 2008, Study Group members forwarded via a letter to the National Brownfields Coalition (NBC) their recommendations on reauthorization of the Brownfields Revitalization Act, and a subgroup met to continue discussions on WISC. The subgroup will present their proposals and ideas at the next several Study Group meetings in 2008.

Table 5 - Summary of Public Participation Activities: Outreach

	Mid Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
News Releases	3		4
Newsletters	13		29
Meetings with Stakeholder Groups	4		--
Outreach Meetings with Local Governments	> 40		25
New Publications	12		5
New Web Pages	4		4
Updated Web Pages (external)	74		20
Web page views, Remediation & Redevelopment Program main page	11,090		--
Web page views, contaminated site database (BRRTS on the Web)	323,509		35,000

B. Financial Assistance to Communities



1) Site Assessment Grant (SAG) Awards

In this grant period WDNR received 80 annual SAG applications requesting more than \$3.56 million. WDNR was able to award \$1.7 million that the Legislature has designated for these grants, covering 46 projects at abandoned or underused properties in 31 communities. These grants will provide funds for environmental activities on 230 acres of land, including 69 site assessments and investigations, the demolition of 74 buildings or structures and the removal of more than 37 tanks, drums and other abandoned containers.

Local governments have pledged more than \$1.9 million in additional funds. Governor Jim Doyle announced the grants, saying "The cleanup and safe reuse of brownfield properties is about more than just renewing damaged or vacant land, it also helps spur additional reinvestment in these communities over the long haul." More than 20 grants were awarded to rural communities looking to spur economic growth in less populated areas.

To date, WDNR has awarded approximately \$11.6 million in nine annual rounds of SAG awards. Awards have gone to 180 communities to begin investigation and cleanup on 1,185 acres. Total activities included 648 site assessments and investigations, the removal of more than 440 storage tanks, and the demolition of more than 450 structures and buildings. Our SAG web page is at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm and includes the complete list of grant awards for this report period.

2) Green Space and Public Facilities Grants

These unique grants help local governments and tribes clean up brownfield sites for long-term public benefits, such as parks, recreational areas, libraries and municipal garages, with the property remaining in public use for at least 20 years. In this report period WDNR opened its third round of grant applications, utilizing our new "open" application period. Grant applications were accepted starting on January 25, 2008, and two applications are currently being reviewed. Utilizing the open application period, the grant period will remain open until February 6, 2009, or until all available funds have been awarded, whichever comes first.

To date, DNR has awarded 19 Green Space and Public Facilities in two rounds of applications. More information about these grants is on our Green Space and Public Facilities grant web at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/greenspace_grant.htm.

3) Ready for Reuse Revolving Loan Fund

WDNR has continued implementing its 2004 Revolving Loan Fund grant from the EPA. In this report period we:

- received an additional \$1.5 million in supplemental hazardous substance funds from EPA;
- submitted to EPA a new Revolving Loan Fund grant application for \$3 million in hazardous substance funds, and

- completed five new hazardous substance grants, with one additional grant application under review.

Grantee	Site	Amount Requested
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Prairie du Chien	Former Quality Wood – Future Wolf Machine	\$200,000
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Prairie du Chien	Former Quality Wood – Future UFP Expansion	\$200,000
Redevelopment Authority for the City of Milwaukee	Legacy Development	\$200,000
Merrill Redevelopment Authority	Former Modern Dry Cleaner	\$142,646
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Sheboygan	Former Kingsbury Brewery	\$200,000
	Total Awarded	\$942,646

Our Ready for Reuse web page is at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/epa_revolvingloan.html.

4) Urban Reinvestment Initiative

WDNR, city of Milwaukee and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation continue to make significant progress conducting site assessments in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. The partners have received an additional \$400,000 in site assessment funding from EPA and this economically and environmentally challenged area in north-central Milwaukee and completed a work plan for the new funding. The 30th Street Industrial Corridor is now the target area for \$800,000 in federal brownfields assessment funds to stimulate brownfield cleanup and redevelopment. The partners are continuing their Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, with activities either completed or ongoing at close to 30 properties. The partners are currently planning an open house in April to provide more information to the public. Please see the “Our Internet Presence” on page 12 for more information about outreach on the Urban Reinvestment Initiative.

5) Support for Federal Brownfield Grants

WDNR wrote 11 support letters for new EPA brownfield grant applications from Wisconsin communities. These letters supported applications from Ashland, Baraboo, Brown County, Merrill, Milwaukee, North Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Prairie du Chien, Sheboygan, West Allis and Wisconsin Rapids.

In this report period WDNR received only one request for an eligibility determination for petroleum assessment using an EPA brownfield grant and an eligibility determination was completed for the Village of Ashwaubenon in northeast Wisconsin. The low number of requests in this report period may be due to the winter season and the fact that in the previous year WDNR wrote 11 eligibility letters for a total of 35 site eligibility decisions, and work is still underway on those assessments.

6) Federal Tax Deduction Pre-Certifications

WDNR issued four pre-certification letters during this report period, allowing taxpayers to take advantage of the extended and expanded federal deduction for qualified environmental remediation expenditures. These pre-certifications were for cleanups located in De Pere, Appleton, Pleasant Prairie and West Allis. One was for hazardous substance contamination, one was for petroleum contamination, and two were for both types of contaminants. We have provided regular reminders in our electronic newsletters of this option for federal taxpayers. WDNR has now provided a total of 50 pre-certifications since 1998.

Table 6 - Summary of Public Participation Activities: Financial

	Mid Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
WDNR Site Assessment Grants	46		45
WDNR Green Space & Public Facilities Grants	0 - (application period opened 1-08)		5
Ready for Reuse Loans & Grants	5		--
EPA Brownfield Grants - Support Letters	11		10
EPA Brownfield Grants – Eligibility Determinations	1		15
Federal Brownfield Tax Deduction Certifications	4		--

Section 6 Mechanisms for Approval of Cleanup Plans, Verification and Certification

Our mechanisms for approval of cleanup plans, verification and certification fall into three primary areas:

- A. Completed Cleanups
- B. Redevelopment Assistance
- C. Liability Exemptions

A. Completed Cleanups

In this report period WDNR approved 222 completed cleanups. A completed cleanup means that WDNR has reviewed all relevant technical submittals related to environmental investigation and contaminant remediation activities and found them satisfactory. In many cases the regional office uses a technical committee to ensure consistency in case closure decisions. The regional hydrogeologist signs and sends a case closure letter to the responsible party after cleanup approval, and the region also enters the case closure information into our database of

contaminated properties. We are using our state funds to develop and enhance this element of our program.

B. Redevelopment Assistance Actions

In this report period WDNR provided 34 redevelopment assistance actions, helping to remove disincentives to redeveloping contaminated property. Our redevelopment assistance includes these actions:

- 1) general liability clarification letters,
- 2) liability clarifications for lessees,
- 3) liability exemptions when contamination originated on another property,
- 4) lender liability exemptions,
- 5) approvals to build on abandoned landfills,
- 6) cleanup agreements for property tax cancellation, and
- 7) cleanup agreements for tax foreclosure reassignment of ownership.

C. Liability Exemptions

A Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) follows a thorough environmental investigation and cleanup at a contaminated property. This fee-based option is provided in state law and removes future liability for the specified response action. WDNR issues the liability exemption in the form of a Certificate of Completion, which can be passed along to future owners of the property. The certificate can help with real estate transactions where prospective purchasers have concerns about contamination, assuring them that the entire property has been cleaned up to the satisfaction of WDNR. In this report period WDNR approved new full Certificates of Completion.

Table 7 - Summary of Mechanisms for Cleanup Approval, Verification and Certification

	Mid-Year Numbers	End of Year Numbers	End of Year Targets
Properties with Completed Cleanups by WDNR	222		350
Property Redevelopment Assistance Actions	34		50
New Requests to enter Voluntary Party Liability Exemptions (VPLE) Program	8		10
New VPLE Certificates of Completion	1		5
Cumulative Wisconsin VPLE Certificates	80		--

128(a) Grant Report Attachment

Mid-Year Report, Sept. 1, 2007 to Feb. 29, 2008
WDNR Regional Brownfield Outreach Activities

Northeast Region's Brownfields Outreach Reporting

Task	Items (List specific information; e.g. which sites were success stories, which communities you held meetings with, etc.)
Submit brownfields success stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven Mile Creek Park (formerly Otto Stiedaman property) – town of Lamartine
Hold community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held “Town Social” in Winnebago County; included nine participants from six towns, villages and cities with populations under 10,000; informal evening get-together for one-on-one contact between RR Program staff and municipal representatives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ discuss contaminated land concerns and brownfield cleanup and redevelopment tools; ○ give demonstrations of Contaminated Lands Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), including <i>BRRTS On the Web</i> (BOTW) and the <i>RR Sits Map</i>; ○ present success story displays and distribute brownfield publications success stories; and ○ meet the project manager for their communities • Met with the Appleton officials, discussed proposed and planned brownfield redevelopment along Fox River, including grant opportunities • Held Green Team meeting with Green Bay officials; discussed brownfields grants and redevelopment tools
Hold developer, lender, other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with current owner of brownfield property in Kiel on cleanup/funding options to construct a multi-unit senior housing development
Provide public presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to 45 northeast Wisconsin well drillers on CLEAN via the <i>RR Sites Map</i> and the GIS registry • Presentation to University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh “Ecosphere in Crisis” class about remediation and redevelopment in Fox Valley
Hold external training (e.g. consultants’ days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended and assisted with Wisconsin Brownfield Insurance Program (WBIP) seminar held in Green Bay; presented display materials for such brownfield tools as SAG, DNR Green Space and Public Facilities grants and the voluntary party liability exemption (VPLE), and distributed Financial Resource Guides; discussed WBIP, SAG and other issues with local government attendees and consultants • Invited community members to do an on-line test of the newest

	<p>version of CLEAN's <i>RR Sites Map</i>; officials from Green Bay Economic Development Corporation, two consultants, an attorney and a regional planning commission member reviewed on-line information about contaminated and cleaned-up sites; the GIS Registry; liability limitations and clarifications, and financial actions; participants tested all tools and applications and took a test to find sites, prepare a map, and search <i>BOTW</i></p>
<p>Other brownfields outreach activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talked via telephone with secretary for the Wausaukee Economic Development Committee, provided information on grants and liability issues for former dry cleaner • Talked via telephone with clerk from town of Doty, Oconto County, on Green Space grants and other financial tools • Talked via telephone with Berlin on funding options for demolition of brownfield and planning of Boy's & Girl's club • Talked via telephone with developer in Marinette on VPLE program • Attended open house and talked with current owner of former Raytheon Speed Queen brownfield, in Omro • Talked via telephone with private individuals and consultant about redevelopment for Brillion Ironworks landfill, including a potential dog park • Talked via telephone with consultant on grant and funding options for a vacant, tax delinquent bulk storage plant in Two Rivers; site is part of a four vacant properties along the riverfront • Talked via telephone with village of Suamico officials about SAG and VPLE opportunities • Provided information packet to the Potter village president and clerk/treasurer • Emailed Green Space grant information to hundreds of regional community contacts • Staffed a booth at the Wisconsin Towns Association annual convention in Green Bay • Staffed a booth at the Wisconsin Lands Information Association conference in Lake Geneva; discussed and demonstrated CLEAN to the director of Waushara County Land Conservation & Zoning • Attended RiverHeath open house on the redevelopment planned for the M-I LLC VPLE site in Appleton, located on the Fox River; plan included residential and retail/offices and green space with access to the riverfront trail system • Set up an in-house brownfield display board for Economic Development tour groups visiting the regional office

Northern Region's Brownfields Outreach Reporting

Task	Items (List specific information; e.g. which sites were success stories, which communities you held meetings with, etc.)
Submit brownfields success stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lipman Gifts
Hold community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Mercer Downtown Development Group to discuss potential brownfield sites, including former Midwest Timber property • Met with Northwest Regional Planning Commission to discuss potential funding sources to redevelop former business incubator property in Village of Grantsburg
Hold developer, lender, other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met Director of Development with Samuels Group to discuss brownfield funding and liability protection issues; group is interested in redeveloping brownfield properties and constructing LEED buildings
Hold external training (e.g. consultants' days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held series of three, one-day sessions in Rhinelander, Superior and Ladysmith for consultants, realtors, developers and local government officials; topics included brownfields, land use controls and building on abandoned landfills
Other brownfields outreach activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talked via phone with communities/individuals about brownfields cleanup funding and other issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rice Lake officials and their consultant to discuss SAG, VPLE, funding and liability protection associated with redevelopment of a brownfield lake property ○ Rice Lake officials about expansion of business at brownfield ○ Antigo officials about Green Space grant to fund two projects along Springbrook Creek ○ Rhinelander officials about ER TIF ○ Ashland officials about local government liability exemption; and about Ore Dock project, including acquisition and condemnation issues ○ Town of Bradley Planning Commission to discuss liability issues ○ Amery officials and business owners to discuss redevelopment of former Thompson Machine property ○ Burnett County UW- Extension officials about brownfield tools and comprehensive planning ○ Superior officials about Barker's Island redevelopment ○ two attorneys about local government exemption and publicly available brownfields information ○ consultant regarding former Wisconsin CleanSoils property in Bayfield County ○ private citizen about liability issues and brownfield redevelopment at Brantwood Auto Salvage in Price County

South Central Region's Brownfields Outreach Reporting

Task	Items (List specific information; e.g. which sites were success stories, which communities you held meetings with, etc.)
Hold community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a one-day seminar in Green County for clerks, treasurers, board supervisors and other local officials; presented information on SAGs and other brownfields grants/loans, CLEAN and local government liability exemption • Held a Green Team meeting with Beloit officials on George Meyer/Behr salvage yard near Illinois border and Turtle Creek • Held a Green Team meeting with Janesville officials on the River bend project • Held a Green Team meeting with the Belleville Village Board on a former feed mill; talked about SAG and local government liability exemption • Held a Green Team meeting with town of Dunn officials; talked about brownfields funding opportunities, CLEAN and the local government liability exemptions • Held a Green Team meeting with the Wyocena president and clerk/treasurer about SAG and Ready For Reuse funding and the local government liability exemption • Held a Green Team meeting with the Baraboo city administrator about grants and liability for their redevelopment area • Held a Green Team meeting with the Milton city administrator and chamber of commerce about Merchant Row redevelopment and brownfield funding • Met with Madison city planners, and real estate agents and consultants on possibility of Ready For Reuse grants/loans for two former gas station sites • Met with Jo Anne Ehaus, Lafayette Development Corporation, regarding Blanchardville Coop, and demonstrated CLEAN
Hold developer, lender, other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Wisconsin Realtors Association in south central region of state about land use controls, liability issues, lenders and voluntary parties • Met with BUILD program coordinator about how brownfield grant programs
Provide public presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Madison city planner to demonstrate CLEAN • Met with Ayers consultants to demonstrate CLEAN • Presented at Madison Area Technical College's (MATC) real estate law class, ecology class and GIS class; demonstrated CLEAN, talked about land use controls and technical cleanup issues
Hold external training (e.g. consultants' days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a consultant's day in February in south central part of state; demonstrated CLEAN and talked about brownfields funding • Held consultant's day in March in Fitchburg; demonstrated CLEAN and talked about brownfields funding
Provide other newsletters to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ReNews Potosi article reprinted in newsletter for League of WI municipalities

customers, trade association articles, etc.	
Other brownfields outreach activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated public planning workshop in Baraboo with DNR, U.S. EPA and federal, state and local health officials; discussed health and waterfront redevelopment issues, demonstrated CLEA • Attended WLIA conference • Demonstrated new RR Sites Map to RR staff

Southeast Region’s Brownfields Outreach Reporting

Task	Items (List specific information; e.g. which sites were success stories, which communities you held meetings with, etc.)
Submit Brownfields success stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Bend Place – Manpower Property
Hold developer, lender, other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting with Commence and the City of Oconomowoc, at City Hall in regards to Brownfield issues on three sites.
Hold external training (e.g. consultants’ days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held Vapor Intrusion seminar in Milwaukee, co-sponsored with the Wisconsin Federation of Environmental Technologists (FET)
Provide other newsletters to customers, trade association articles, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped with photos on RR Program brochure for Menomonee Valley
Other Brownfields outreach activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk via telephone with the following communities and/or private parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West Allis about a landfill issue ○ Milwaukee about various brownfield issues ○ Kenosha about various brownfield issues ○ Racine about various brownfield issues ○ Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District about brownfield issues ○ Bayshore Mall consultants about brownfields ○ We Energies/SIMGA-Aldrich about brownfield issues ○ Providing “DLT” information on a timely basis to Madison ○ Kenosha Count about brownfield issues ○ assisted with commentary at the “Reclaiming Wisconsin!” Seminar

West Central Region's Brownfields Outreach Reporting

Task	Items (List specific information; e.g. which sites were success stories, which communities you held meetings with, etc.)
Submit brownfields success stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Crosse former Xcel Energy property • Marshfield Heiting Property
Hold community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Eau Claire County treasurer, planners and clerk about brownfield cleanup and redevelopment on tax delinquent properties • Met with Wausau environmental engineer about cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields • Met with town of Onalaska administrator about re-use of landfill and nearby parcels • Met with Galesville mayor regarding cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields • Met with Chippewa County grant writer about county redevelopment issues and CLEAN training • Met with a village of Woodville official about cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields • Met with Glenwood City mayor and clerk/treasurer regarding brownfields • Met with Marshfield administrator about cleanup and redevelopment on three sites • Met with Bay City village president about cleanup and redevelopment on brownfields • Met with Altoona city administrator on cleanup and redevelopment on tax delinquent properties • Met with village of Marathon official to discuss purchase of a former brownfield • Met with vice chairman of the Monroe County Board about cleanup and redevelopment issues for county • Met with city planner, administrator and wastewater superintendent of Prairie du Chien to discuss brownfield funding and the voluntary party liability exemption issues for the Quality Wood site • Met with village of Grantsburg clerk to discuss cleanup and redevelopment tools • Met with village of Norwalk officials to discuss acquisition of two former brownfield sites for expanding village park • Met with Tomah mayor, economic development director, and attorney; local bank president and media regarding cleanup and redevelopment of railroad properties
Hold developer, lender, other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with La Crosse realty broker about cleanup and redevelopment issues • Met with property owner in Bay City about clean up and redevelopment options • Met with a title and abstract company information specialist in Eau Claire about cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Eau Claire realtor about CLEAN and cleanup and redevelopment issues • Met with property owner and developer about potential cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield one of Menomonie's industrial areas • Met with two Tomah realtors about cleanup and redevelopment issues on three city properties • Met with Prairie du Chien developers about brownfields funding and the voluntary party liability exemption for the cleanup and redevelopment on several sites, including Quality Wood and Joe's Service Station • Met with Canadian Pacific Railroad Real Estate marketing director about railroad brownfields in Tomah • Presented and met with Albion Town Board on Remediation and Redevelopment Program and potential brownfield cleanup and redevelopment
Provide public presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-presented to 115 municipal treasurers regarding brownfield remediation and redevelopment at conference in Minocqua in November • Presented and met with Albion Town Board on Remediation and Redevelopment Program and potential brownfield cleanup and redevelopment
Hold external training (e.g. consultants' days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning mini-brownfield conferences and tours in Wausau and La Crosse • Planning dual-county "Town Seminar" for Monroe and La Crosse counties
Submit two <i>Re News</i> story ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wausau: Dudley Tower • Prairie du Chien: 3M Sponge Plant – Crawford County Administration Building • New Richmond: former mini-malls and gas station • La Crosse: hotel, office building and International gardens
Provide other newsletters to customers, trade association articles, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed regional newsletter about Green Space and Public Facilities Grant, SAG, ER TIF's, federal brownfield tax deduction and success stories
Other brownfields outreach activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in ITRC training titled "Planning and Promoting Ecological Land Reuse of Remediated Sites" • Submitted two success stories for the DNR Air & Waste annual report • Submitted weekly WCR RR program highlights to the DNR's Department Leadership Team • Updating regional map with SAG sites • Compiled all internal and external regional comments from Remediation and Redevelopment Sites Map survey