

Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) Contractor Services Awarded to the City of Berlin

On June 4, 2014 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) awarded Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) Contractor Services to the City of Berlin for Phase I and II environmental activities at the former Safeguard property, located at 114 Pierce Street and 119 Commercial Street in Berlin.

This half-acre site consists of three parcels in downtown Berlin. The property has a long history of manufacturing uses including a blacksmith shop, wood working facility, machine shop, cheese box factory and foundry. Most recently, Safeguard America, a producer of flame-resistant garments, occupied the site from the 1950s until 2008. Since then, the site has been vacant. This property is an important piece of an area-wide downtown redevelopment plan. The WAM award will assist the city with due diligence activities prior to acquiring the property to ready it for redevelopment.



The Safeguard building in Berlin, Wis., sits in a key downtown redevelopment location

The WAM program, administered by DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program, provides local governments, closing businesses and potential buyers with no-cost Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments at closed or closing industrial sites to help ready them for reuse or redevelopment. These awards are not grants, they are no-cost consulting services to the recipient, and therefore require minimal effort by the awardee. This program is especially useful for small towns because there is no match or project administration involved.

Applications can be submitted for the program at any time. Eligible sites include closed or closing manufacturing plants and vacant land with a history of manufacturing. Gas stations, dry cleaners, salvage yards and agricultural coops are not eligible. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/brownfields/wam.html.

For more information on WAM or the Remediation and Redevelopment Program in Wisconsin, contact Darsi Foss, WDNR Bureau Director for Remediation and Redevelopment, at 608-267-6713.