

# The OUTREACH

Montana's Source for Brownfields Information

VOL. 2, Issue 2

November 2006



*Removal of meth-contaminated carpet*

## Brownfields Competitive Grant Guidelines Are Published!

**Closing Date for Submission of Proposals:  
December 8, 2006**

### *Inside this Issue*

Brownfields Competitive Grant ...	
Guidelines Are Published .....	1
Three Major Changes in the	
2007 Proposal Guidelines .....	1
Competitive Grants Recap .....	2
DEQ Proposal Review .....	2
Letters of Acknowledgement .....	2
DEQ's Meth Cleanup Program ...	2
Updated Standards .....	3
New Arsenic Action Level for	
Surface Soils .....	3
All Appropriate Inquiry .....	3
Bye, Kelly, and Good Luck! .....	3
Brownfields Contacts .....	4
Deadlines for DEQ Grant	
Review and Letters of	
Acknowledgement .....	4

**E**PA is requesting proposals from eligible entities for assessment, revolving loan fund, and cleanup grants for clean up and revitalization of brownfields sites. The deadline for proposals is December 8, 2006. Proposals may be sent through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial delivery service, or electronically through **www.grants.gov**. Only one delivery method should be used. Proposals sent through the U.S. Postal Service or sent via a commercial delivery service must be postmarked by December 8, 2006; proposals submitted electronically through **grants.gov** must be received by December 8, 2006.

Proposal guidelines and the Request for Proposals (RFP) are published on EPA's website. To view the guidelines and RFP, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#epa-oswer-ober-07-01>. ■

### Three Major Changes in the 2007 Proposal Guidelines

1. The narrative proposal, including the cover letter, can now be 18 pages.
2. Community Notification is no longer a threshold criteria. It is now a ranking criteria and is separate from Community Involvement.
3. The number of questions in the Sustainable Reuse and Environmental Impacts sections have changed. Make sure your response format follows the new guidance! ■

## Competitive Grants Recap

**E**very year EPA solicits brownfields grant proposals from communities throughout the United States for brownfields properties. Approximately \$72 million is expected to be available for grants in 2007 and EPA anticipates awarding about 200 cooperative agreements.

Brownfields grants fund environmental assessment, cleanup, job training activities, and revolving loan funds. EPA awards separate grants for assessment and cleanup of properties that have been contaminated with hazardous substances and those that are contaminated with petroleum products. Communities can apply for a hazardous substance assessment or cleanup grant for properties where hazardous substances and petroleum contamination are co-mingled.

EPA awards brownfields grants through a competitive process. Eligible applicants must submit a grant proposal addressing all requirements in EPA's proposal guidelines.

Eligibility criteria for applicants and brownfields properties are in EPA's 2007 grant proposal guidelines. The proposal guidelines are published on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#epa-oswer-obcr-07-01>.

A more detailed summary of the competitive grant process is in the November 2005 Outreach on DEQ's Brownfields website at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/Brownfields/PDFs/Fall2005Newsletter.pdf>.

**Remember the grant proposal deadline is  
DECEMBER 8, 2006!!**

## DEQ Proposal Review

**I**n past years, DEQ has reviewed grant proposals for applicants prior to final submittal to EPA. Unfortunately this year, due to staff turnover, DEQ will not be able to review hazardous substance grant proposals. DEQ will review proposals for petroleum brownfields grants. Contact Betsy Hovda at (406) 841-5056 if you would like your petroleum grant proposal reviewed. The proposal should be submitted to Betsy for her review prior to November 30, 2006. ■

## Letters of Acknowledgement

**L**etters of acknowledgement from the appropriate state or tribal environmental authority must be included in your brownfields grant proposal. If you will be requesting an acknowledgement letter, please give DEQ adequate notice so a letter can be prepared in time to include with your grant proposal.

For letters applicable to **hazardous substance brownfields**, contact:

Denise Martin (406) 841-5060

For letters applicable to **petroleum brownfields**, contact:

Betsy Hovda (406) 841-5056 ■

## DEQ's Meth Cleanup Program

**T**he Methamphetamine Cleanup Program (MCP) is part of the Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau in DEQ's Permitting and Compliance Division. As required by law, DEQ must keep a list of locations of meth drug lab properties. To remove a meth property from the list, owners must remediate their properties to 0.1 micrograms of meth per 100 square centimeters, or less, of surface material. A contractor certified to cleanup meth-contaminated properties must be used. If a property has not been remediated by a certified contractor to the standard, then the property owner must notify any subsequent occupant or purchaser, in writing, that the property has been used as meth drug lab.

Thirty-eight contractors are currently certified in Montana to conduct assessment and cleanup of meth-contaminated properties.



*DEQ methamphetamine cleanup contractor training*

## DEQ's Meth Cleanup Program - *continued from page 2*

MCP will be using brownfields grant money to conduct the following projects:

- Develop an informational pamphlet for owners of meth-contaminated properties.
- Take confirmatory sampling of meth properties cleaned up prior to the effective date of the meth cleanup standard.
- Put on a statewide conference for contractors, regulatory agencies, and tribes.
- Offer a limited number of targeted brownfields assessments and cleanups for meth-contaminated properties.

For more information:

Deb Grimm  
Methamphetamine Cleanup Program  
Phone: (406) 444-5286 • Email: [DGrimm@mt.gov](mailto:DGrimm@mt.gov)  
MCP Website: [www.deq.mt.gov/meth](http://www.deq.mt.gov/meth) ■

## Updated Standards

In February 2006, DEQ updated its water quality standards and changed the name of the Water Quality Circular from WQB-7 to DEQ-7. The newest version of the document should always be used when comparing constituent concentrations in ground and surface water to cleanup levels. Circular DEQ-7 is on-line at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Standards/CompiledDEQ-7.pdf>. ■



SRS staff using DEQ's new QED MicroPurge Flow Cell and Portable Pump

## New Arsenic Action Level for Surface Soils

In April 2005, DEQ released an action level for arsenic in surface soil of 40 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg). Arsenic occurs naturally in Montana soils at levels above both generic and Montana-specific risk-based concentrations. DEQ is implementing what it considers to be a unique approach to establishing arsenic action levels that take into consideration levels of arsenic in native soils.

Over two hundred native soil samples were collected from unimpacted soils across Montana and analyzed for arsenic. DEQ statistically evaluated the analytical data and calculated the 95 percent upper-confidence limit (UCL) of the mean to be 40 mg/kg. DEQ determined that the 95 percent UCL of 40 mg/kg represents an appropriate generic arsenic action level because it represents native soil concentrations in Montana. A paper published by DEQ's Remediation Division on the arsenic action level is on-line at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/PDFs/ArsenicPositionPaper.pdf>. ■

## All Appropriate Inquiry

The final rule for all appropriate inquiry became effective on November 1, 2006. (Federal Register – November 1, 2005, pages 66069–66113). When conducting an all appropriate inquiry, please remember to check the standard environmental record resources listed in the ASTM Phase I Guidance, as well as other resources listed by DEQ or other regulatory entities. Those additional resource records may include DEQ's lists of CECRA and VCRA sites, Water Quality Act sites, abandoned mine sites, solid waste landfills, hazardous waste generators and permitted facilities, petroleum storage tank sites, and those sites under enforcement action. ■

## Bye, Kelly, and Good Luck!

Kelly Schmitt has accepted a new job at Montana's Department of Commerce, Business Resources Division, in the CDBG-ED program. Kelly was the Hazardous Substance brownfields coordinator for the DEQ and instrumental in brownfields projects throughout the state. We wish her the best at her new job. ■

## Brownfields Contacts

### General Brownfields Information

Betsy Hovda (406) 841-5056  
Mike Trombetta (406) 841-5045

### Hazardous Substance Brownfields

Denise Martin (406) 841-5060  
Site Response Section

### Petroleum Brownfields

Betsy Hovda (406) 841-5056  
Petroleum Release Section

### Meth-contaminated Properties

Deb Grimm (406) 444-5286  
Methamphetamine Cleanup Program

### Hazardous Waste Generators

Becky Holmes (406) 444-2876  
Hazardous Waste Section

## Deadlines for DEQ Grant Review and Letters of Acknowledgement

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Also be sure to give DEQ advance notice for letters of acknowledgement. Contact Denise Martin, (406) 841-5060, for letters applicable to hazardous substance brownfields. Contact Betsy Hovda, (406) 841-5056, for letters applicable to petroleum brownfields. ■

