



# Minnesota Brownfields News

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June 2011

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EDAM SUMMER CONFERENCE

Brainerd  
June 15-17

[More info and registration](#)

### STATE OF BROWNFIELDS UPDATE & ROUNDTABLE

Minneapolis  
Tuesday, July 12 7:30-10:30 a.m.

[More info and registration](#)

## MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

At the end of the 2011 regular Session, the Legislature and Governor were deadlocked on most budget bills with no clear outcome in sight. Minnesota Brownfields was active throughout the regular Session in support of brownfield cleanup and redevelopment funding. Vetoed omnibus bills funding brownfields cleanup and redevelopment included a number of significant cuts. Here is the latest status of major brownfields initiatives in bills vetoed by Governor Dayton last week:

**DEED:** Redevelopment Program \$0. \$1.6M cut to Contamination Cleanup Program. Demo loan program language introduced and first reading on 5/17. [Governor Dayton's veto letter](#)

**Commerce:** Petrofund sunset extended; appropriation of \$5.4M in 2013.

**MPCA:** Remediation Fund. [Veto Letter](#)

**Met Council:** Livable Communities program-TBRA permitted to transfer up to 100% of its funds to cover transit operating

funding gap. [Veto letter](#)

**Hennepin County:** Environmental Response Fund sunsets Jan 1, 2013. SF1325/HF1242 extend the sunset to 2018; bills did not leave Committees.

**Ramsey County:**  
ERF sunsets Jan 1, 2013. SF772/HF1113 repeal the sunset date: bills did not leave Committees.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Received a 1-year extension (includes market rate housing). TIF pooling allowed for foreclosed properties. Minnesota Investment Fund: zeroed.

Patricia Nauman of Metro Cities will provide the latest update on the status of these and other bills related to redevelopment at our [July 12th Brownfield Update event](#).

## OTHER MINNESOTA NEWS

### CENTRAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE

[The City of St. Paul recently announced](#) that up to \$1 million in technical assistance funds are now available for investigation of possible contamination and/or hazardous materials in structures, soil or groundwater along the Central Corridor. Funds are available through a grant from the USEPA.

### MET COUNCIL ADDS TBRA GRANT ROUNDS

The Metropolitan Council recently decided to expand its TBRA [Tax Base Revitalization Account] brownfield investigation grant program by adding two new grant rounds per year. The new rounds will have August 1 and February 1 application deadlines (to supplement the longstanding May 1 and November 1 "regular" grant rounds), resulting in opportunities to seek brownfield investigation grant funding every 90 days. For more information, go to the Met Council Livable Communities program [website](#)

### MPCA REVISES PETROLEUM GUIDANCE ON CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

In February, 2011 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Petroleum Remediation Program (PRP) issued new

guidance on conducting corrective actions at petroleum sites. The PRP released a suite of new guidance documents and report forms covering an updated corrective action design (CAD) approval process. Guidance is available on the [MPCA website](#).

The MPCA Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) Programs have evaluated the PRP CAD guidance and will be utilizing the PRP CAD guidance as outlined in the attached policy document. The CAD Guidance will be used for new corrective action design, implementation, and management of active remediation activities at sites in the Superfund, RCRA and VIC Programs. The CAD guidance is available for use now, however the official effective date is June 1, 2011. Please feel free to contact a program supervisor or program staff with specific questions regarding use of the guidance.

Notification of the use of the PRP CAD guidance can be found on the [Risk-Based Site Evaluation Process Guidance Documents webpage](#).

## **NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS NEWS**

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BROWNFIELDS PILOTS UPDATE**

In partnership with the Departments of Transportation and Housing & Urban Development, the Brownfields Program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency just launched a [new page](#) devoted to the five Brownfield Partnership pilots. The webpage includes final reports and tools for four of the five pilots, including:

- Brownfield inventory tool to help prioritize brownfield parcels for development of a greenway along the Fairmont Corridor in Boston, MA
- Transit-oriented development strategy for Martindale Brightwood neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana

### **EPA DOCUMENTS OUTLINE LIABILITY, RENEWAL ENERGY PROJECTS**

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE) has produced an update to

the "Revitalization Handbook." [Revitalizing Contaminated Sites: Addressing Liability Concerns](#) provides a summary of the key statutory and regulatory provisions of CERCLA and RCRA, as well as the policy and guidance documents most useful in managing environmental cleanup liability risks associated with the revitalization of contaminated sites. It is designed for use by parties involved in the assessment, cleanup, and revitalization of sites, and provides a basic description of the tools parties can use to address liability concerns.

Also just released by EPA is a fact sheet titled [Siting Renewable Energy on Contaminated Properties: Addressing Liability Concerns](#). This fact sheet was issued jointly by OSRE and EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) to support the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative. The purpose of this fact sheet is provide answers to some common questions that developers of renewable energy projects on contaminated properties may have regarding potential liability for cleanups.

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### **THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!**

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The McKnight Foundation

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Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic  
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Please send items for the newsletter to [Minnesota Brownfields](#). Thank you.

Martha Faust  
Program Administrator

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*Minnesota Brownfields is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting efforts that support and enhance the reuse and redevelopment of brownfields throughout the state of Minnesota by conducting research, sponsoring education and public policy forums, and establishing partnerships with both*

*private and public organizations involved in the reuse or redevelopment of brownfields.*

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