

Targeted Brownfields Assessments Applying for TBA Funding

The Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program provides EPA funding and technical assistance for environmental assessments at brownfield sites throughout the region. The program is designed to help states, tribes and municipalities minimize the uncertainty of contamination at brownfield sites in their communities, especially those with no prior Brownfields Assessment Grants.

TBAs usually focus on smaller sites with funding needs of \$100,000 or less. Under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, TBA assistance is available through two sources: directly from EPA through Regional Brownfields offices under Subtitle A of the law, and from state or tribal voluntary response program offices receiving funding under Subtitle C of the law.

What is a Brownfield?

The EPA defines brownfields as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.”

Who is eligible to receive TBA funding?

TBA funding is available to public, quasi-public or non-profit entities such as municipalities, tribal governments, and community development organizations interested in redeveloping abandoned or underutilized properties.

What is the purpose of TBAs?

TBAs may encompass one or more of the following activities:

- A screening or “all appropriate inquiry” (Phase I) assessment, including a background and historical investigation and a preliminary site inspection;
- A full (Phase II) environmental assessment, including sampling activities to identify the types and concentrations of contaminants and the areas of contamination to be cleaned;
- Establishment of cleanup options and cost estimates based on future uses and redevelopment plans.

What properties qualify for TBA funding?

The property must be contaminated or potentially contaminated with CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) hazardous substances. However, the property cannot be listed on the National Priorities List (NPL), proposed for NPL listing, or currently subject to a Removal Action.

Are privately held sites eligible?

Generally, TBA funds are approved for publicly held properties. An exception can be made if the application is supported by a public or non-profit entity and redevelopment of the site will offer significant public benefit to the community. For privately held sites,

EPA will consider the site circumstance, public benefits of proposed activities, and cost reimbursement proposals.

Are abandoned sites eligible?

Yes. An abandoned site, for the purposes of this program, is defined as a site where the current owner has shown no interest in the property, has not paid taxes on the property, and does not have the resources to conduct the required assessment work.

How does EPA prioritize TBA funding?

EPA's site selection process gives highest priority to publicly held sites. Priority will also be given to those projects where the applicant has a concrete redevelopment plan for the assessed property and public support for the project is clearly indicated.

About your TBA Application

Here are some things you should know or investigate before applying for TBA funding.

Ownership and Site Description

A description of the anticipated flow of ownership of the property throughout the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment process is required. If the applicant does not own the property, the plan for acquisition should be included. A description of the site should include total acreage and approximate square footage, number of buildings and the condition thereof, and past site uses.

Known or Suspected Hazardous Materials

Any known or suspected releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants should be identified. Prior assessment activities should be noted.

Anticipated Future Uses

Be prepared to describe proposed reuse of the site, i.e. residential, recreational, commercial/retail, industrial.

Community-Based Planning and Involvement

Community involvement is an important element of your application. Proposal evaluators will need to know the extent to which community stakeholders were involved in developing the reuse plan. The plan should describe environmental and economic benefits for the affected local community.

Risk Reduction and Protection

The applicant should be familiar with known or perceived threats to human health. You will be asked to specify hazards at assessment sites that threaten the health and welfare of children, pregnant women or other sensitive populations.

For additional information and TBA applications contact Herb Petitjean at 502-782-6432 or Herb.Petitjean@ky.gov.