



RR REPORT

Important Updates from the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

April 25, 2016

May 4, 2016: *Issues & Trends* Presentation - Post-Closure Modifications

Jane Lemcke, DNR, will present information on the post-closure modification process and discuss the examples provided in the [draft guidance](#), Post-Closure Modifications: Covers and Changes in Property Boundaries (RR-987). This draft guidance was sent out for public comment in late December, and is expected to be finalized soon.

Date: May 4, 2016

Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Join by phone: 1-855-947-8255, passcode: 6612 745#

Questions in advance can be sent to DNRRRComments@wisconsin.gov

The presentation notes and related materials for this teleconference will be available on the [RR Program Training Page](#). The audio will be available in the training library shortly after the conclusion of the teleconference.

A schedule of future *Issues & Trends* events is also available in the [Training Library](#), along with recordings of previous presentations.

BOTW Database Has Documents for Download

Did you know there are over 30,000 documents available for viewing and downloading on the [Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System \(BRRTS\) on the Web \(BOTW\)](#) database? BOTW is DNR's online, public database that provides information about contaminated properties and other activities related to the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater in Wisconsin.

The DNR's RR Program is adding new documents daily and working toward the goal of having the major reports, approvals and letters for all clean-up case files available online. Contact one of our [Regional Environmental Program Associates \(EPA\)](#) before making any plans or appointments to visit an office to review a file. There is a chance it is now available electronically.

Green Team Assistance Available

The DNR's "Green Team" meetings bring key parties together, in person, to discuss site investigation, cleanup and redevelopment issues, answer questions and establish a collective understanding of the project. Green Team meetings are an effective and efficient way for local governments and others to evaluate options, plan for, and work through a brownfield project.

Department staff is available to discuss liability protections, regulatory processes and financial assistance available for the investigation, remediation and redevelopment of a contaminated property.

The DNR can be a valuable partner in this effort and is eager to provide assistance. For more information about Green Team meetings, visit the [DNR Green Team assistance webpage](#).

FY 2016 RR Program 128(a) Mid-Year Report Complete

The RR Program's mid-year report to US EPA, which details outputs and outcomes funded by a federal grant, is now available for review. [The Section 128\(a\) Grant Mid-Year Report](#), for the reporting period of September 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016, highlights work completed in the first half of the funding year. Since 2003, the RR Program has consistently and efficiently used these funds under a cooperative agreement with the US EPA to enhance state efforts with brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. Previous reports can be found on the [Brownfields Program webpage](#).

UW-Whitewater Report Shows Positive Impacts on Distressed Areas and Small Towns

An [article in Renewal and Redevelopment](#) highlights some impressive numbers from the UW Whitewater report, "[The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Wisconsin's Brownfields Investments](#)" particularly as it relates to small communities and distressed areas. The article points out that economically disadvantaged communities received more assistance than more prosperous areas in the state. More than half of assisted sites were in census tracts with a lower median household income than the state as a whole.

The investment of cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields has also had an impact on small Wisconsin communities. Small towns with fewer than 15,000 people can be greatly impacted by a blighted property. The redevelopment of an abandoned site can help bring a community back to life.

The [UW-Whitewater study](#) was prepared by the University's Fiscal and Economic Research Center for the Brownfields Study Group and the Wisconsin Economic Development Institute.

Response Requested: Environmental Consultant NR 712 Requirements Survey

The RR Program is seeking input from environmental consultants on Wis. Admin. § NR 712, Personnel Qualifications for Conducting Environmental Response Actions.

The four-question survey is for informational purposes only. Responses will be reviewed and considered during public policy discussions of the NR 700 Technical Focus Group, with respect to NR 712 implementation.

Your input is valuable. To access the survey:

<http://22.selectsurvey.net/DNR/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=88K1364L> **The deadline to respond is May 4, 2016.**

Two New Federal Funding Opportunities

HUD: Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Program

HUD is soliciting applications for the [FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants program](#). The maximum grant award is \$30 million.

Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. **People:** Improve educational outcomes and inter-generational mobility for youth with services and supports delivered directly to youth and their families; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families choices about their community.

Applications to HUD are due June 28, 2016.

USDA: Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD)

USDA seeks to support communities that are working across jurisdictions to align resources, develop long-term community and economic growth strategies and engage federal, state and local partners. By promoting this regional focus, USDA resources can be more effectively utilized and have a larger impact on rural capacity building and wealth creation.

To be eligible for SECD assistance, a project must meet the following criteria:

- Be eligible for the underlying program,
- Be carried out solely in a rural area, and
- Support a multi-jurisdictional strategic economic community development plan

Applications to USDA are due June 30, 2016.

More information is available at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/strategic-economic-and-community-development>

A Half Century of Progress

The [EPA Alumni Association put together a report](#) with seven supporting essays to inform students and others about the major environmental issues that have occurred in the United States since the late 1960s. The report is an overview of progress made to improve the environment, in addition the challenges that remain to achieve a healthy environment for future generations. The supporting essays linked throughout the report provide additional information on air, drinking water, waste disposal, Superfund land cleanup, pesticides and toxic substances.

Upcoming ITRC Training

April 28 - [Geophysical Classification for Munitions Response](#)

May 3 - [Petroleum Vapor Intrusion: Fundamentals of Screening, Investigation, and Management](#)

May 5 - [Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization](#)

May 19 - [Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment – A Resource When Alternatives to Default Parameters and Scenarios are Proposed](#)