Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference

OCTOBER 26-28, 2016 AT THE LANCASTER COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER, LANCASTER

Save the date! Plan to join us to learn about opportunities for transforming communities throughout the commonwealth. Conference attendees will experience the City of Lancaster's success in creating a vibrant destination where people want to live, work and visit. DEP will host the conference in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western PA (ESWP). For information about Lancaster, visit the Lancaster County Convention Center's website. For more details about the conference visit ESWP's website.

Pennsylvania Downtown Center Conference

The Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) will be hosting the 2016 Statewide Community Revitalization Conference June 12-15, 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel in Allentown. This year's theme is Creating Economic Vitality. Pennsylvania Downtown Center is the only statewide nonprofit dedicated solely to the revitalization of the commonwealth's core communities. Join other community and economic development practitioners and volunteers in Allentown as they explore the issues related to creating more entrepreneurial and equitable communities. More information on the PDC conference can be found here.

Business in Our Sites Loans (BOS)

The Business in Our Sites Program (BOS) provides loans for the acquisition and development of key sites for future use by businesses, private developers, and others. The program is administered through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). The program is intended to provide financial assistance to municipalities and others to plan and prepare sites for future use. Projects that require site development assistance where a business has already committed to locating at a specific site or where a private developer has already committed to locating a facility for a specific user may also seek financial assistance under other appropriate programs administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Information on guidelines and how to apply can be found here.
Business in Our Sites Loans (BOS) cont.

Overview
Empowers communities to attract growing and expanding businesses by helping them build an inventory of ready sites.

Uses
All site development activities are required to make a site shovel-ready. For speculative projects only.

Terms
Loans are patient – no repayment until property is sold or leased or five years from the date of closing. Site must be previously utilized property or undeveloped property that is planned and zoned for development. Counties/municipalities must be notified. Substantial likelihood of site use following development, not for primary residential or recreational purposes. The interest rate for the loan will be set by the CFA.

Purpose of Funding
- Site Development and Business Infrastructure
- Land & Building

Eligibility
- Municipalities
- Redevelopment authorities
- Industrial development agencies
- Private developers

FY17 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant Competition:
Get started early on preparing your proposal!

Brownfields area-wide planning BF AWP is a grant program that provides funding to conduct activities that will enable the recipient to develop an area-wide plan (including plan implementation strategies) for assessing, cleaning up and reusing catalyst/high priority brownfield sites. Funding is directed to a specific project area, such as a neighborhood, downtown district, local commercial corridor, old industrial corridor, community waterfront or city block, affected by a single large or multiple brownfield sites.

EPA anticipates that the next (BF AWP) grant competition will open later this spring. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Recognizing that some applicants find it difficult to prepare a BF AWP grant proposal within the typical amount of time (60 days) that the RFP allows until proposals are due, EPA is sharing information on how applicants can get started early on proposal preparation and the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) submission process.

There are several activities that applicants can work on now, in advance of the RFP being made publicly available, that will support both proposal development and the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) proposal submission. More information on these grants can be found here.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority is now accepting BOS applications until May 31, 2016.
Vapor Intrusion Guidance Update

The draft Vapor Intrusion (VI) guidance was out for public comment from July 25, 2015 to Sept. 23, 2015. DEP received 97 comments from eight different organizations and is currently finalizing responses to those comments and making final revisions to the draft.

The final VI guidance is expected to be presented for approval to members of the CSSAB on July 13, 2016, and should be published by the end of the third quarter of 2016. There will be a 60-day implementation period with an effective date sometime in November.

Training for DEP staff and the public sector is planned for several dates in the third quarter of 2016; exact dates to be determined.

Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists

The Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) to present an Act 2 Overview course in June 2016 at a location to be determined in the central part of the state.

A one-day training course will be held on Risk Assessment on July 20, 2016, in Monroeville, and on Aug. 24, 2016, in Reading. This course will outline the role of risk assessment in the Act 2 program and provide details on the required steps of a risk assessment and recommendations to resolve common problems that are often seen in risk assessments.

After publication of the final VI guidance there will be three courses offered on vapor intrusion.

More information on these courses can be found here.
Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board

The remaining 2016 meeting dates of the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board (CSSAB) will be held at 9 a.m. at DEP’s Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

**July 13** - 14th Floor Conference Room

**Nov. 16** - 14th Floor Conference Room

*These dates are subject to change; please check the [DEP webpage](http://depwebpage) prior to each meeting to confirm all dates, times, locations, and agenda.

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Chapter 250 Regulations – Final Rulemaking

The final Chapter 250 regulations were presented to and approved by the Environmental Quality Board on April 19, 2016. The final-form regulations are anticipated to be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* this summer.

Major revisions to the rulemaking include:

1) Updating the statewide health Medium-Specific Concentrations (MSCs).

2) Clarifying the public notice documentation required for cleanups; and

3) Clarifying the application of the EPA Health Advisory role.

The MSC values are levels of contaminants in soil and groundwater that are calculated to protect public health for the intended land use. The values have been amended to reflect the most recent scientific information on toxicity, and six regulated substances have been added to the tables. DEP is required to review MSC values every three years to ensure that the standards reflect the most recent scientific information and provide the utmost protection to the public health.

The change to the public notice documentation includes more detailed requirements for the proof of public notice, which needs to be submitted with cleanup reports. This change will allow for a more timely review of reports as they will be complete with the initial submission.

The clarification of the role of the EPA Health Advisory details how EPA-published drinking water health advisories are applied as groundwater MSC values. These health advisory levels are also employed to provide the utmost protection to the public health.
City of Easton’s Simon Silk Mill

A 14-acre brownfield in the city of Easton is being redeveloped into a vibrant and unique residential mixed-use community arts center. DEP’s Land Recycling Program staff provided technical and program oversight assistance to the Easton Redevelopment Authority that partnered with the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. and other county and municipal stakeholders to help redevelop and transform the former Simon Silk Mill into a community asset. The R&H Simon Silk Mill was originally built in 1883 along Bushkill Creek on North 13th Street and operated until the late 1930s. It was the largest producer of black silk ribbon in the world and employed 2,000 workers at the Easton plant.

The plans for the mill include a community arts center, 150 residential apartments, an artist live-work facility, and a mix of market-rate retail, commercial, office, and restaurant facilities. The refurbished area and apartments are intended to be ready for occupancy by spring of 2016. The project’s success is crucial to the city’s economic future and is intended to be a space for resident artists to form a community. Due to the building’s industrial history as a silk mill, soil and groundwater was contaminated with metals and organic compounds. Throughout the project’s redevelopment stages, environmental remediation was necessary. The first phase of the project will include six small businesses and a brewery that will create 20 jobs.

PA Brownfield Success Stories

Communities across Pennsylvania have a story to tell. Whether it’s the successful cleanup of a town's former industrial complex or the remediation of the corner gas station, these brownfields success stories illustrate the improved quality of life for people living and working in Pennsylvania. These videos feature successful brownfield reclamation projects from across Pennsylvania. Brownfields are properties that are in need of expansion, redevelopment or reuse, but because of actual or anticipated hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, that work is made more challenging. Pennsylvania’s approach to brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a national model for transforming abandoned, idle properties into places of environmental protection and economic opportunity.

All of DEP’s brownfields videos are located on the YouTube link which can be found here: