



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Louisiana to receive \$2.2 million in redevelopment grants

Baton Rouge – Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will recognize several groups for their efforts in securing more than \$2.2 million in Brownfields funding. EPA will present the grant winners with checks at the Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth St. in Baton Rouge, in Conference Room 1051 on Friday, May 12, at 1 p.m.

Brownfields are identified as abandoned, idled or underused commercial or industrial properties. Redevelopment or reuse of these properties often does not occur because they are viewed as contaminated.

The EPA estimates that there are more than 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites in the United States. Since its inception in 1995, the Brownfields Program has awarded 709 assessment grants totaling more than \$190 million, 189 revolving loan fund grants worth more than \$165 million and \$26.8 million for 150 cleanup grants.

Last year Louisiana received more than \$1 million in grants from EPA. “This year’s substantial increase is another example of the success of the Brownfields program,” said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel. “We applaud these groups for taking an active role in sparking economic development and revitalizing their communities.”

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funding to state, local and tribal governments to make low interest loans, characterize and assess, conduct planning and community involvement and cleanup activities at brownfields sites.

For more information on the state Brownfields Program, contact Roger Gingles at 225-219-3188 or visit www.deq.louisiana.gov.

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