



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

Contact Jim Friloux for more information: (225) 765-0735; e-mail: jim\_f@deq.state.la.us

J. Dale Givens  
Secretary

## DEQ Issues a Certificate of Completion Under New Voluntary Remediation Program

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Certificate of Completion on January 17, 2002, under its new Voluntary Remediation Program. The certificate was issued for the cleanup of the former site of the **American Can Company**, a brownfields property located in New Orleans.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The DEQ Voluntary Remediation Program provided a mechanism for this former manufacturing facility to be voluntarily cleaned up and redeveloped into an apartment and retail shopping complex consisting of 268 apartments and 19,000 square feet of retail space. Under the Voluntary Remediation Program, owners and potential purchasers can receive an exemption of liability for future cleanup costs in return for voluntarily cleaning up a property.

Dale Givens, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, says, "The Voluntary Remediation Program enhances the federal Brownfields Program by providing a state focus to a national problem. We are committed to making abandoned industrialized land into useful and profitable community centers."

The strict, joint, and several liability provisions in state and federal superfund laws have long had a chilling effect on redevelopment of urban Brownfield properties. These laws can subject buyers and others to liability for the cleanup of a property even though they played no role in contaminating the property.

The Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program, which was created by an act of the Louisiana Legislature and implemented by DEQ rulemaking in April of 2001, allows potential buyers to acquire and remediate brownfields properties to risk-based cleanup standards without fear of acquiring state superfund liability. The program can also protect developers, lenders, and other parties who participate in the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields.

The American Can Company manufactured cans at this site until 1988. The site, located in the Mid-City area of New Orleans, consists of a complex of six buildings that were built between 1907 and 1929, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cleanup of the site was overseen by the Department of Environmental Quality and involved the remediation of asbestos, lead paint, and soil contaminants.

The Department views the program as an important tool for brownfields redevelopment and expects to issue more Certificates of Completion in the near future.

For more information about the Voluntary Remediation Program, please contact Roger Gingles at 765-0333.

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