

## **1.5 Particular Classes of Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding Only With Property-Specific Determinations**

The following special classes of property are generally ineligible brownfield sites unless EPA makes a “Property-Specific Determination”:

- Properties subject to planned or ongoing removal actions under CERCLA.
- Properties with facilities that have been issued or entered into a unilateral administrative order, a court order, an administrative order on consent, or judicial consent decree or to which a permit has been issued by the United States or an authorized state under RCRA, FWPCA, TSCA, or SDWA.
- Properties with facilities subject to RCRA corrective action (§3004(u) or §3008(h)) to which a corrective action permit or order has been issued or modified to require the implementation of corrective measures.
- Properties that are land disposal units that have submitted a RCRA closure notification or that are subject to closure requirements specified in a closure plan or permit.
- Properties where there has been a release of PCBs and all or part of the property is subject to TSCA remediation.
- Properties that include facilities receiving monies for cleanup from the LUST trust fund.

EPA’s approval of Property-Specific Determinations will be based on whether or not awarding a grant will protect human health and the environment and either promote economic development or enable the property to be used for parks, greenways, and similar recreational or nonprofit purposes. Property-Specific Determination requests should be attached to your proposal and do not count in the 18-page limit. See the Brownfields FAQ at: [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal\\_guides/FY11\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/FY11_FAQs.pdf) for more information on how to prepare and submit a Property-Specific Determination.

### **1.5.1 Facilities Subject to CERCLA Removal Actions**

Properties (including parcels of properties) where there are removal actions may not receive funding, unless EPA makes a property-specific determination of funding eligibility.

EPA’s view is that a removal may be identified by the occurrence of one of the following events, whichever occurs first in time: EPA issues an action memo; EPA issues an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis approval memo; EPA mobilizes onsite; EPA issues a notice of federal interest to one or more potentially responsible parties (PRPs), which in emergencies may be made verbally; or EPA takes other actions that are consistent with a removal.

Once a removal action is complete, a property is eligible for brownfields funding without having to obtain a property-specific funding determination. EPA’s view is that, solely for the purposes of eligibility to receive brownfields funding, a removal is complete when the actions specified in the action memorandum are met, or when the contractor has

demobilized and left the site (as documented in the “pollution report” or POLREP). Applicants applying for brownfields funding for sites at which removal actions are complete must include documentation of the action being complete with their funding proposal.

Parcels of facilities not affected by removal action at the same property may apply for brownfields funding and may be eligible for brownfields funding on a property-specific basis. Property-specific funding decisions will be made in coordination with the on-scene coordinator (OSC) to ensure that all removals and cleanup activities at the property are conducted in safe and protective manners and to ensure that the OSC retains the ability to address all risks and contamination.

Please note that if a federal brownfields-funded site assessment results in identifying the need for a new removal action, the grantee may continue to expend assessment grant funds on additional assessment activities. However, any additional expenditure of federal brownfields funds and any additional site assessment activities should be conducted in coordination with the OSC for the site.

### **1.5.2 Facilities to which a permit has been issued by the United States or an authorized state under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, or the Safe Drinking Water Act**

Generally, in cases where a property or a portion of a property is permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Section §1321 of the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and/or the Toxic Substances and Control Act, the property, or portion of the property, may not receive funding without a property-specific determination. Therefore, applicants should review the following guidance regarding which types of permitted facilities may not receive funding unless EPA makes a property-specific determination to provide funding. Applicants should note that the exclusion for permitted facilities does not extend to facilities with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued under the authorities of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but is limited to facilities issued permits under the authorities of the Oil Pollution Act (i.e., §1321 of FWPCA).

In cases where one or more portions of a property are not eligible for funding, the applicant should identify the specific permit and situation that causes the property to be excluded. In addition, the applicant must include, within the proposal, documentation that federal brownfields funding for the assessment or cleanup of the property will further the goals established for property-specific funding determinations as described in the Brownfields FAQ at: [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal\\_guides/FY11\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/FY11_FAQs.pdf).

In some cases, a facility may not have a permit or order because it is not in compliance with federal or state environmental laws requiring that it obtain a permit or the facility has failed to notify EPA of its regulatory status. Such facilities are not eligible for brownfields funding. For example, a RCRA treatment unit operator is required to obtain a permit and/or notify EPA of its operation. An operator that fails to fulfill those

obligations will likely not have a permit or order as EPA will be unaware of its existence. Therefore, it is EPA's view that such facilities are ineligible to receive brownfields funds as a result of their failure to comply with a basic regulatory requirement. Additional guidance on the eligibility of RCRA-permitted facilities, including facilities under administrative or court orders, including corrective action orders, is provided in the Brownfields FAQ at: [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal\\_guides/FY11\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/FY11_FAQs.pdf).

### 1.5.3 RCRA Sites

#### RCRA Facilities that are Eligible for Funding

EPA's view is that the following types of RCRA facilities are eligible for brownfields funding and do not require Property-Specific Determinations:

- a. RCRA interim status facilities that are not subject to any administrative or judicial order or consent decree.
- b. RCRA interim status facilities that are subject to administrative or judicial orders that do **not** include corrective action requirements or any other cleanup provisions (e.g., RCRA §3008(a) orders without provisions requiring the owner/operator to address contamination).
- c. Parcels of RCRA facilities that are not under the scope of a RCRA permit or administrative or judicial order.

#### RCRA Facilities that Require Property-Specific Determinations

EPA's view is that the following types of RCRA facilities **may not receive funding without a property-specific determination**:

- a. RCRA-permitted facilities.
- b. RCRA interim status facilities with administrative orders requiring the facility to conduct corrective action or otherwise address contamination, including facilities with orders issued under the authorities of RCRA §3008(a), §3008(h), §3013, and §7003.
- c. Facilities under court order or under an administrative order on consent or judicial consent decree under RCRA or CERCLA that require the facility to conduct corrective action or otherwise address contamination at the facility.
- d. Land disposal units that have notified EPA or an authorized state of their intent to close and have closure requirements specified in closure plans or permits.

### **1.5.4 Land disposal units that have filed a closure notification under Subtitle C of RCRA and to which closure requirements have been specified in a closure plan or permit**

RCRA hazardous waste landfills that have submitted closure notifications, as required under 40 CFR 264.112(d) or 265.112(d), generally will not be funded. This may include permitted facilities that have filed notification of closure and for which EPA and/or an authorized state is proceeding with final closure requirements for the facility. For interim status facilities, this is done through approval of a closure plan submitted with closure

notification. For permitted facilities, this is routinely done as a modification to the permit, requested by the facility at the time of closure notification.

Please note that RCRA hazardous waste landfills that have submitted closure notifications may be eligible for brownfields funding with a Property-Specific Determination.

### **1.5.5 Sites Contaminated with PCBs**

The Brownfields Law excludes from funding eligibility portions of facilities where there has been a release of PCBs that are subject to remediation under TSCA.

EPA's view is that all portions of properties **are eligible** for brownfields site assessment grants, except where EPA has initiated an involuntary action with any person to address PCB contamination. Also, it is EPA's view that all portions of properties **are eligible** for cleanup and RLF grants, except where EPA has an ongoing action against a disposer to address PCB contamination. However, any portion of a property where EPA has initiated an involuntary action with any person to address PCB contamination and portions of properties where EPA has an ongoing action against a disposer to address PCB contamination will require a Property-Specific Determination to be eligible for brownfields funding, including:

- There is a release (or disposal) of any waste meeting the definition of "PCB remediation waste" at 40 CFR 761.3; **and**
- At which EPA has initiated an involuntary action with any person to address the PCB contamination. Such involuntary actions could include:
  - Enforcement action for illegal disposal;
  - Regional Administrator's order to characterize or remediate a spill or old disposal (40 CFR 761.50(b)(3));
  - Penalty for violation of TSCA remediation requirements;
  - Superfund removal action; or
  - Remediation required under RCRA §3004(u) or §3004(v).

PCBs may be remediated under any one of the following provisions under TSCA:

- a. Section 761.50(b)(3), the directed characterization, remediation, or disposal action.
- b. Section 761.61(a), the self-implementing provision.
- c. An approval issued under §761.61(c), the risk-based provision.
- d. Section 761.61(b) to the level of PCB quantification (i.e., 1 ppm in soil).
- e. An approval issued under §761.77, the coordinated approval provision.
- f. Section 761.79, the decontamination provision.
- g. An existing EPA PCB Spill Cleanup Policy.
- h. Any future policy or guidance addressing PCB spill cleanup or remediation specifically addressing the remediation of PCBs at brownfield sites.

### **1.5.6 LUST Trust Fund Sites**

The Brownfields Law requires a Property-Specific Determination for funding at those sites (or portions of properties) for which assistance for response activity has been obtained under Subtitle I of RCRA from the LUST trust fund. EPA's view is that this provision may exclude UST sites where money is being spent on actual assessment and/or cleanup of UST/petroleum contamination.

However, in cases where the state agency has used LUST trust fund money for state program oversight activities on an UST site, but has not expended LUST trust funds for specific assessment and/or cleanup activities at the site, the site would be eligible for brownfields funding and does not need a Property-Specific Determination. Such sites may receive brownfields funding on a property-specific basis, if it is determined that brownfields funding will protect human health and the environment and the funding will promote economic development or enable the creation of, preservation of, or addition to greenspace (see guidance on documenting eligibility for property-specific funding determinations provided in the Brownfields FAQ at:

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal\\_guides/FY11\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/FY11_FAQs.pdf)).

#### **Examples of sites receiving LUST trust fund monies that EPA would consider to be good candidates to receive brownfields grants or loans:**

- a. All USTfields pilots (50 pilots).
- b. Sites (or portions of properties) where an assessment was completed using LUST trust fund monies and the state has determined that the site is a low-priority UST site, and therefore, additional LUST trust fund money cannot be provided for the cleanup of petroleum contamination, but the site still needs some cleanup and otherwise is a good candidate for economic revitalization.
- c. Sites (or portions of properties) where LUST trust fund money was spent for emergency activities, but then the site was determined to be ineligible for further expenditures of LUST trust funds, yet the site needs additional funding for continued assessment and/or cleanup that will contribute to economic revitalization of the site.