

Program Overview

Program Name: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Summary: LDEQ's State Response Program is comprised of our Brownfield Program and the Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP).

Brownfield sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Under the Office of Environmental Assessment, Remediation Division, LDEQ's Brownfields Program partners Federal, State and local resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfield sites throughout the State. Addressing potential environmental issues, especially financial and regulatory hurdles, is often intimidating, creating a barrier to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfields Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets by assisting local governments and communities navigate the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment.

LDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) facilitates the redevelopment of properties with environmental issues by providing applicants the ability to receive a Certificate of Completion (COC) after the successful remediation of environmental contamination at a site. The COC releases the applicant(s) and future site owners, successors and assigns of liability for all past contamination. Through the Voluntary Remediation Program, LDEQ provides administrative, technical, and legal incentives to encourage the redevelopment and reuse of vacant properties that would otherwise remain abandoned.

Website: <http://www.deq.la.gov/brownfields>

Funding Source(s) for the Program: Federal grants (90%) and state cleanup fund (10%)

Cost to enter program or fees for service: \$500 application fee to enter the VRP plus LDEQ oversight costs above \$500. Waivers for oversight costs up to \$5,000 are available to government and nonprofit entities.

Sites Enrolled in VCP: As of December 2021, 216 sites were enrolled in the VRP.

Contacts

Name: Rebecca Otte

Org: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Title: Brownfields & VRP Coordinator

Email: rebecca.otte@la.gov

Phone: 504-736-7069

Website: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields>

Name: Jennifer Schatzle

Org: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Title: Brownfields and VRP Technical Liaison

Email: jennifer.schatzle@la.gov

Phone: 225-219-3039

Website: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/voluntary-remediation-program>

Assessment and Cleanup Funding

LDEQ's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program provides environmental assessments and cleanup planning as well as technical assistance to navigate the regulatory process to facilitate the reuse of vacant and underutilized properties throughout the State. Assessments are completed by LDEQ's environmental consultant and provided to the applicant upon completion along with an outline of the next steps in the process. Nonprofit and government entities are eligible to apply, either on their own behalf or on behalf of an other entity. Additional information is provided on our Brownfields page: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields>.

In addition, LDEQ's Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund provides low-interest loans with flexible repayment options to support the remediation of Brownfield sites. Private, nonprofit and government entities are eligible to apply. Partial loan forgiveness is available for nonprofit and government entities. Additional information is available on our BCRLF page: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfield-cleanup-revolving-loan-fund>.

Liability Relief Provisions

Applicants who successfully complete remediation under Louisiana's VRP receive a release of liability for

Sites Completed under VCP: As of December 2021, 89 Certifications of Cleanup (COC) and 22 No Further Action (NFA) letters were issued for VRP sites.

previous contamination at the property which then flows down to future owners of the site. Additional information is provided on our VRP page: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/voluntary-remediation-program>.

Methods/Standards/Controls

LDEQ's Risk Evaluation/ Corrective Action Program (RECAP) outlines the regulatory requirements for environmental assessment and cleanups in Louisiana. Additional information on RECAP is available at: <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/recap>.

Contaminants Managed

Sites with petroleum, asbestos, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and hazardous contamination are all eligible for LDEQ's Brownfield Program and VRP, except for asbestos and lead paint abatements with no release to the environment which are not eligible for VRP participation unless combined with a larger cleanup effort (i.e., sites with only indoor abatement are not eligible).

Asbestos: With Conditions - Must involve a release to the environment or be part of a larger cleanup effort to be eligible for VRP.

Lead: With Conditions - Lead paint abatements must involve a release to the environment or be part of a larger cleanup effort to be eligible for VRP.

PCBs: Yes

Petroleum and Fuels: Yes

Other Contaminants: Yes - Other hazardous contamination regulated under LDEQ's RECAP

Institutional Controls

Under the LDEQ Voluntary Response Program (VRP), non responsible parties may utilize institutional controls and engineering controls to address contamination.

IC Tracking: LDEQ maintains a database which tracks VRP sites and includes information regarding type of institutional/engineering controls used. The database is available on the LDEQ website for public review. In addition, if institutional controls are used, a legal instrument must be recorded with the local Clerk of Court in the conveyance records for the subject property prior to issuance of a COC/NFA. The legal instrument must include the use restrictions imposed on the site, a description of the site, and a scaled map showing affected media.

IC Oversight: LDEQ reviews and approves any proposed institutional controls, engineering controls, or use restrictions to be implemented at a site prior to implementation of the remedy.

IC Monitoring: If engineering controls are utilized as a remedy, an operations and maintenance plan is required which includes provisions for monitoring and semi-annual reporting to the LDEQ.

Related Programs

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2674/Default.aspx>

Additional Resources

Brownfield Program

<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields>

Voluntary Remediation Program

<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/voluntary-remediation-program>

Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

<https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfield-cleanup-revolving-loan-fund>