

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative Brownfield Redevelopment Work Group

Over the past decade the availability of public grant and loan funds has provided communities across Michigan, including Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay communities, the opportunity to identify, evaluate, and redevelop certain sites of environmental contamination (referred to as "brownfields") into viable, attractive, and productive community property. Examples of brownfield redevelopment projects completed in Saginaw River and Bay communities include, but are not limited to, industry relocations, condominium developments, a hotel and conference center, and additions to area parks and trail systems.

The DEQ staff remain committed to working with communities to provide assistance towards safely redeveloping brownfield properties to desirable community use because brownfield redevelopment remains an important component towards improving the environmental and economic character of Saginaw Bay coastal communities. Unfortunately state financial resources are no longer available to fund redevelopment and response action efforts at orphan sites of contamination. However, DEQ grant and loan funds remain available for communities through 2007, and loan funds are projected to be available through 2011. It is hoped that actions are initiated that will provide additional grant and orphan site funds into the future.

As a component of the community planning process it remains important that coastal communities identify brownfield areas and identify potential future uses of those areas that will positively affect the environmental and economic character of the community.

To help foster this community effort DEQ staff will assist communities in understanding the regulations that apply to clean up and redevelopment of sites of contamination as well as assist in understanding the Redevelopment Loan and Grant process.

For more information contact Brenda Brouillet, Remediation and Redevelopment Division, Saginaw Bay District Office, Department of Environmental Quality at brouillb@michigan.gov (989-686-8025, Ext. 8300) or Rhonda Klann, Remediation and Redevelopment Division, Department of Environmental Quality at klannr@michigan.gov (989-686-8025, Ext. 8302). For information on available Redevelopment Grants and Loans contact Susan Sandell, Environmental Science and Service Division, at sandells@michigan.gov (231-775-3960).