

How to use NEPAAssist and Cleanups in My Community to conduct your Toxics Compliance for Environmental Reviews

Step 1 – Go to the NEPAAssist webpage: <http://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/entry.aspx>

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NEPAAssist is a tool that facilitates the environmental review process and project planning in relation to environmental considerations. The web-based application draws environmental data dynamically from EPA's Geographic Information System databases and web services and provides immediate screening of environmental assessment indicators for a user-defined area of interest. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earliest stages of project development.

Visit the [Help](#) section in the NEPAAssist tool.
Notes About NEPAAssist Accessibility

Enter New Study Area

Enter address, airport, zip, city, county, state, tribe, or Search

A study area can be a place or an area. To get a map of the vicinity of an area of interest, you can enter an address, ZIP code, city, county, watershed, or a pair of coordinates in the search box.

The following are examples:

- Dallas
- 77 W. Jackson Blvd, 60604
- 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL
- Arlington County, VA
- 60085
- LAX
- For Coordinates, enter Latitude and Longitude (in that order): 38.1,-78.2
- For *Watershed*, enter **watershed: 01020003**
- For *Congressional District*, enter **cd: CA01**

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Step 2 – Enter your project's address in the "Enter New Study Area Box" and press the "Search" button. For the purpose of this exercise, we'll use the ADECA office address of 401 Adams Ave, Montgomery, AL

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Enter New Study Area

401 Adams Ave, Montgomery, AL Search

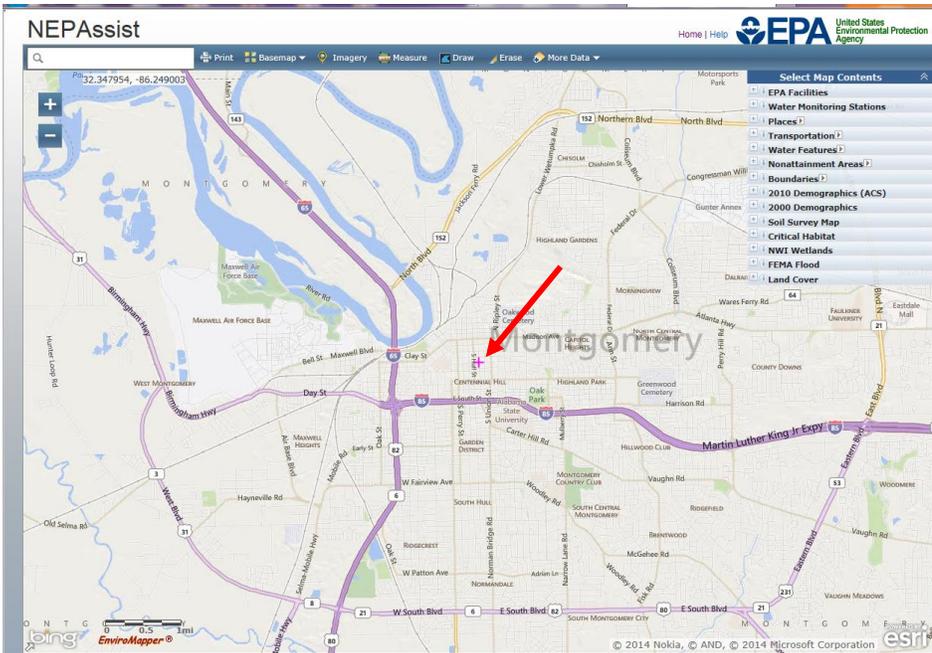
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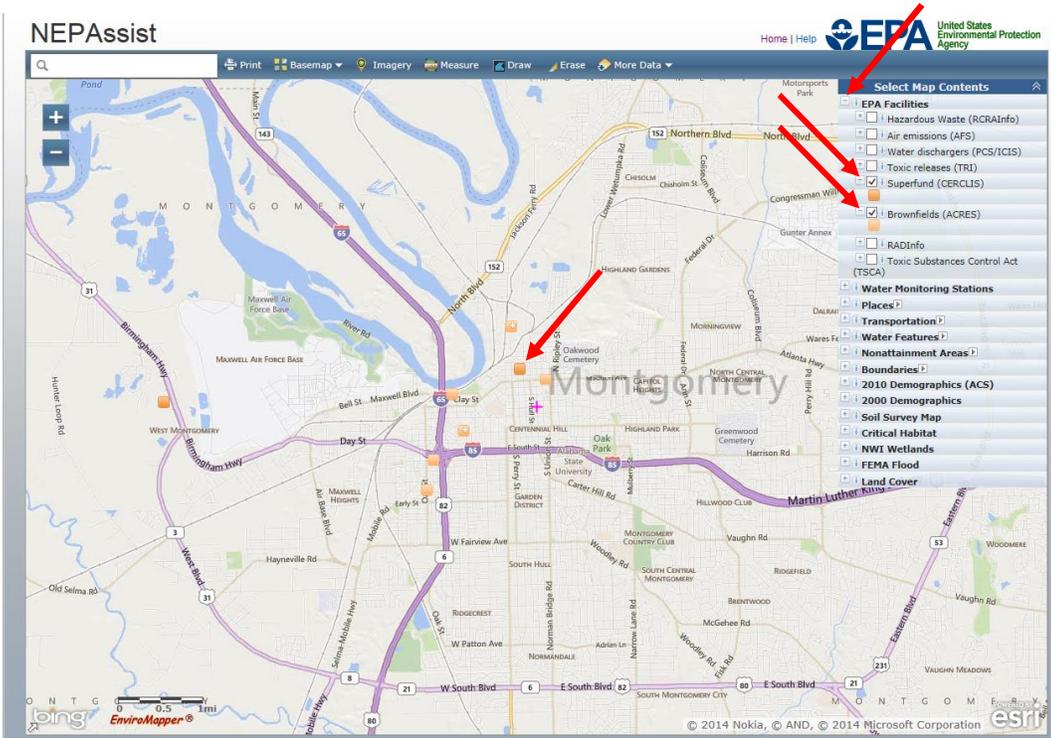
- Dallas
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A map will be brought up that designates the address you entered with a little plus (+) sign.

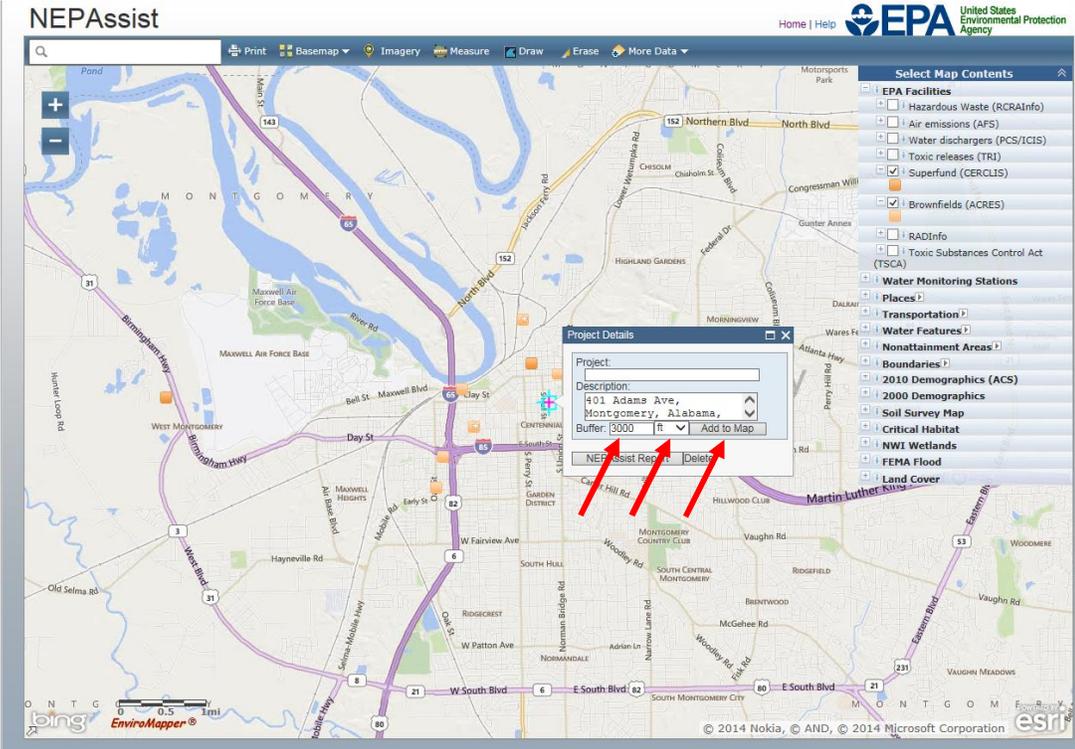


Step 3 – In the Select Map Contents box at the top right hand corner of the screen click the plus (+) sign next to EPA Facilities. This expands the listing to display facilities that report to the EPA. For the purpose of the HUD Environmental Review, we are only interested in the facilities that are in the Superfund (CERCLIS) and Brownfields (ACRES) databases. Check the boxes next to those two listings. A series of orange-ish brown squares will populate the map as shown below.

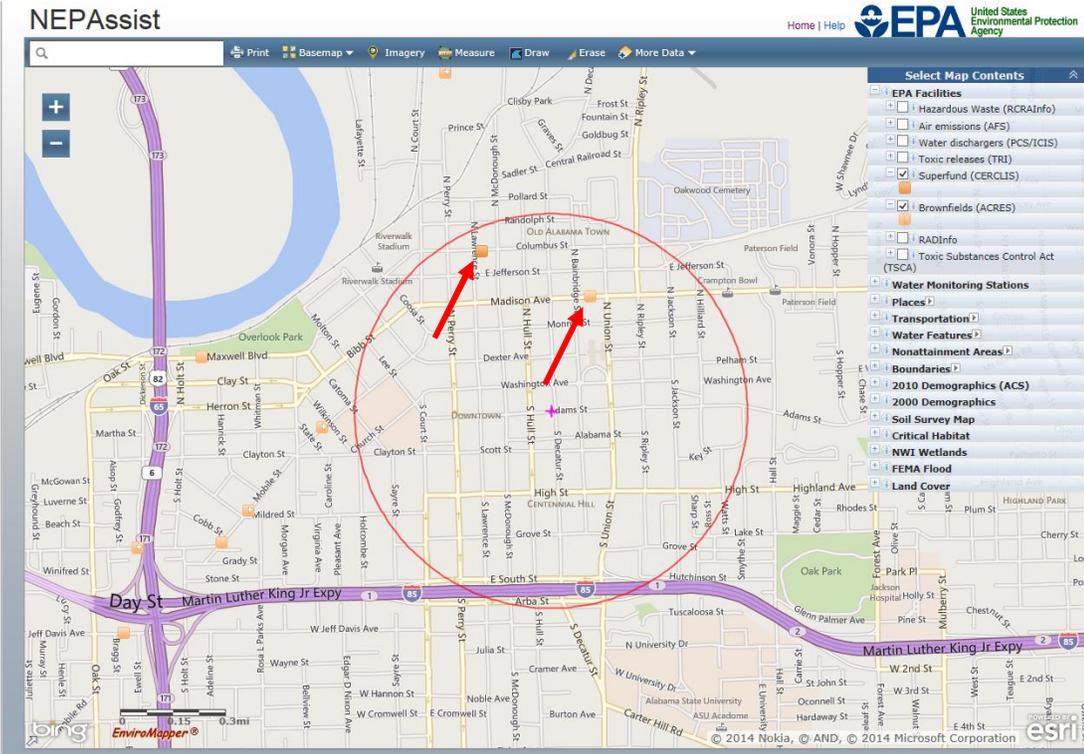


You have now plotted any facilities of importance for the NEPAAssist based HUD Environmental Review. Now you need to determine if any of these facilities are within 3,000 feet of the proposed project site.

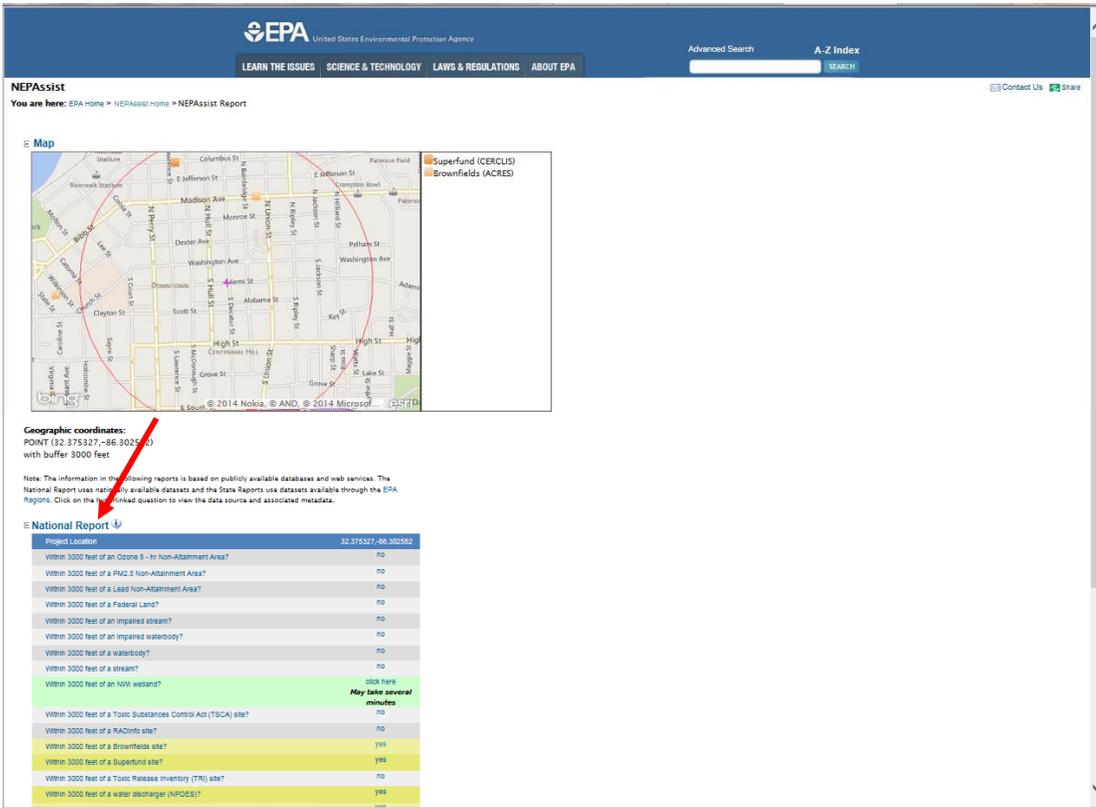
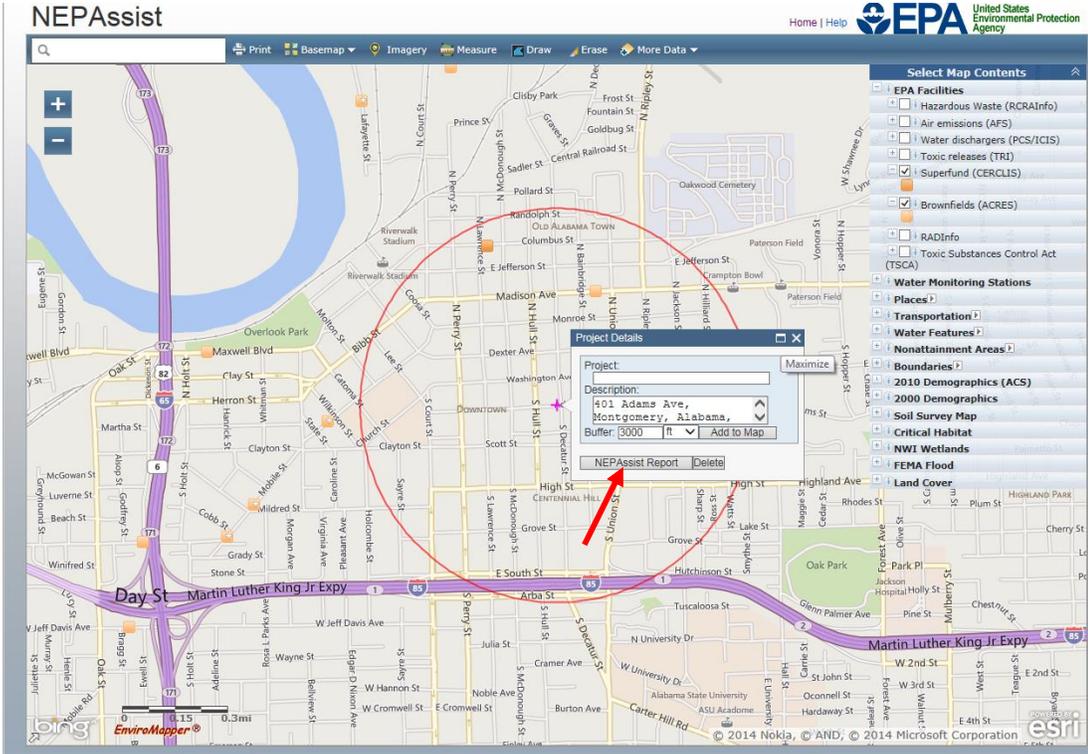
Step 4 – Determine if any of the facilities listed are in the 3,000 ft buffer zone. Left click on the plus (+) sign that designates your project location. A **Project Details** box appears (note: it takes a few seconds for the box to appear so be patient). In the box change the **Buffer** field to **3000** and the units to **ft**. Once you have, click the **Add to Map** button. Then close the **Project Details** box.



The buffer zone will now be displayed on the map. Zoom in on the area and check to see if there are any facilities inside the buffer zone. In our example we have two such facilities. We must now investigate these two facilities.



Step 5 – Left click the plus (+) sign that denotes your project's location to bring the 'Project Details' box up again and click the 'NEPAAssist Report' button. A new window opens that displays a detailed report.



The information provided under the 'National Report' can be used in your analysis of some of the other environmental authorities required by a NEPA review. The portions of importance for your Toxics review are the links associated with the Brownfields and Superfund sites. Click the 'yes' next to the Brownfields question. A new window pops up.

National Report

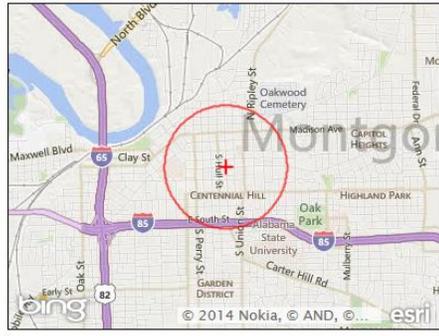
Project Location	32.375327,-86.302582
Within 3000 feet of an Ozone 8 - hr Non-Attainment Area?	no
Within 3000 feet of a PM2.5 Non-Attainment Area?	no
Within 3000 feet of a Lead Non-Attainment Area?	no
Within 3000 feet of a Federal Land?	no
Within 3000 feet of an impaired stream?	no
Within 3000 feet of an impaired waterbody?	no
Within 3000 feet of a waterbody?	no
Within 3000 feet of a stream?	no
Within 3000 feet of an NWI wetland?	click here May take several minutes
Within 3000 feet of a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) site?	no
Within 3000 feet of a RADInfo site?	no
Within 3000 feet of a Brownfields site?	yes
Within 3000 feet of a Superfund site?	yes
Within 3000 feet of a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) site?	no
Within 3000 feet of a water discharger (NPDES)?	yes
Within 3000 feet of an air emission facility?	yes
Within 3000 feet of a hazardous waste (RCRA) facility?	yes
Within 3000 feet of a school?	yes
Within 3000 feet of an airport?	no
Within 3000 feet of a hospital?	yes
Within 3000 feet of a designated sole source aquifer?	no
Within 3000 feet of a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places?	yes

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Report question: **Within 3000 feet of a Brownfields site?** **yes**
Modify question by entering a new buffer distance and unit for the selected study area:
3000 feet

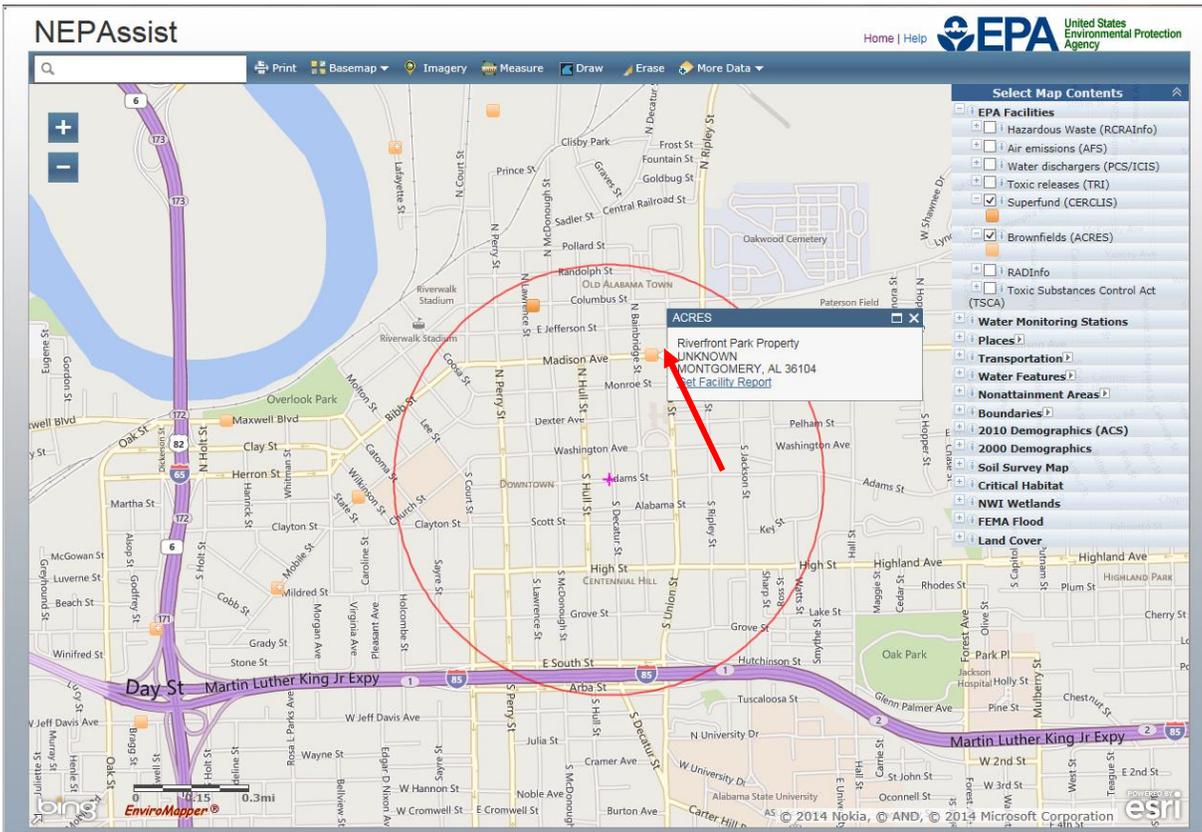
Features within Study Area

Features found: 1

Name	Distance	Units
RIVERFRONT PARK PROPERTY	1844.77	feet

You can use the distance displayed in making your determination for your Toxics Narrative in your Environmental Review Record.

Step 6 – Go back to the initial screen in NEPAssist that shows your site location and buffer zone. You can hover over one of the orange blocks that represent the facility and a window will appear. Click on the blue link that says “Get Facility Report” in the window. A new window will pop up.



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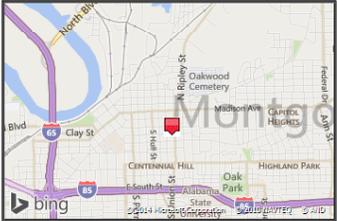
Brownfields Property Progress Profile

RIVERFRONT PARK PROPERTY
Property ID: 12249

This profile provides a summary of the accomplishments reported to the US EPA by a Brownfields grant recipient or Targeted Brownfields Assessment Contractor at this Brownfields property.

[Legal Notices](#)

Property Location



EPA Region 04 implements the Brownfields program for the state in which this property is located.

RIVERFRONT PARK PROPERTY

Unknown
Montgomery, AL 36104

Assessment & Cleanup Activities and Progress Summary

Cleanup at this property is In Progress.

[View Summary of the Property Progress>>](#)

[View Assessment Activities >>](#)

[View Cleanup Activities>>](#)

[View Institutional Controls>>](#)

[View Redevelopment Underway>>](#)

Assessment & Cleanup Results and Impact Summary

Each property is assessed to determine if any contaminants are found.

If the property is under an assessment grant from EPA, information on this assessment is reported to EPA.

The assessment has found contamination at this property

[View Media Affected and Contaminants Found>>](#)

If the property is contaminated and is being cleaned up under a cleanup grant from EPA, information on the cleanup may be reported to EPA.

[View Media Addressed and Contaminants Removed>>](#)

[View Leveraged Accomplishments>>](#)

Acres Cleaned Up:

More Details

[Facility Information \(Facility Registry System\)](#)

[Other Names for this Site](#)

[Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet\(s\)](#)

Use the information provided on this webpage (located above) to conduct your analysis. The detail in these reports varies by location. Some reports have a lot of information, while others contain very little. Scroll down in your report and review each of the following sections to collect information regarding the facility and its potential impact on the proposed project:

- **Property Progress** – Has the facility been designated “Ready for Reuse”?
 - If so, the property has been cleaned up to the satisfaction of the local requirements and will not impact your proposed project.
- **Cleanup Activities** – What activities have taken place at the facility? When did these activities take place?
 - If the site hasn’t been assessed with a Phase I or Phase II yet, be cautious. This could be a problem site because the nature and extent of the contamination on site may not be known.
- **Media and Contaminants** – If available, what media was affected at the facility? What classes of contaminants were found? Was any media addressed?
 - Some media affected are more worrisome than others. Contamination in soil is usually confined to small areas; whereas groundwater contamination has the potential to migrate offsite and potentially affect water supplies.
- **Institutional Controls** – Are any institutional controls required at the site? If so, when did they come into effect?
 - Institutional controls mean there are some restrictions placed on what can occur at the property. In some instances, a paved impervious surface must be in place to prevent rainwater from dispersing contaminants found in the soil. The presence of Institutional controls indicates that the site has been assessed fairly thoroughly and there should be plenty of information to help you make your decision on the property.
- **Property History Information** – What was the site formerly? How large is the property?
 - This information can help you determine what the potential of “bad contamination” exists at the property, even if there isn’t a lot of information available in the report. In general, sites you want to be very cautious of include (but are not limited to) industrial sites, dry cleaners, gas stations, auto repair facilities, farms associated with cattle dipping vats, etc.

After collecting this information if you still cannot comfortably say that the facility does not pose a threat to your proposed project, you should contact your State Environmental Agency or the EPA and request the latest status on the facility. Be sure to share the information you’ve gotten from the online report. By doing a lot of the legwork up front and sharing it with them, you make it easier for them to provide you with any additional information that may help you make the determinations as to whether the facility will impact your proposed project.

Also, be sure to check with the local planning department. Some local entities have information on these facilities on hand and you may get a quicker response from the local person than the State or Federal division you’ve contacted.

Please remember, it is YOUR job to make the determination, NOT that of your local Environmental Agency or the EPA. If you get stuck or are not sure how to evaluate a property with the information you’ve collected, please contact the ADECA Environmental Officer.

Because of all the work required to complete a review of some facilities in these databases, you may want to keep a separate file that contains all of these facilities you’re evaluating. This way, if you have future projects, you can rely on some of the information you’ve already pulled. If you’re relying on a previously reviewed file that is more than 6 months old to make your determination for a new project, you should double check the latest status on the facility (if it is something other than “Ready for Reuse”) in case the situation at the facility has changed.