

# How to use NEPAAssist in conducting your Site Contamination Review

**Step 1** – Go to the NEPAAssist webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist> and click on the “Launch the NEPAAssist Tool”.

**NEPAAssist**

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 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.

### Resources for NEPAAssist Users

- [NEPAAssist User Guide](#) - provides assistance on how to use the NEPAAssist tool.
- [Description of Map Features](#) - provides information on available data features in NEPAAssist.
- [EJSscreen](#) - an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators.

### Launch the Tool

- [Launch the NEPAAssist Tool](#)

**Note: Users are reporting problems using NEPAAssist and Internet Explorer 9. No problems are being reported using other browsers.**

For questions or assistance on NEPAAssist, please email [NEPAAssist](mailto:NEPAAssisthelp@epa.gov) (NEPAAssisthelp@epa.gov).

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

**Step 2** – Enter the project address in the search box. (1459 Anderson Rd, Montgomery, AL for the example)

**NEPAAssist**

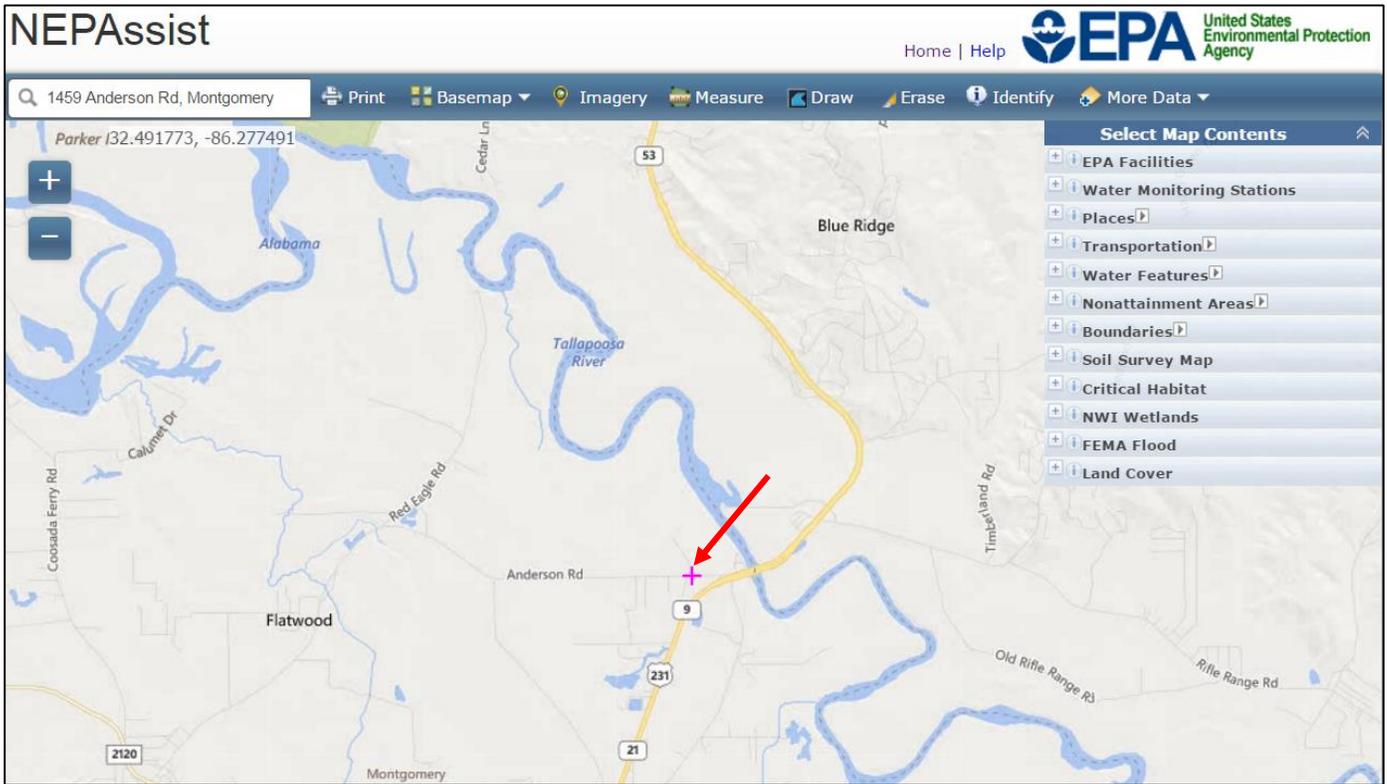
Home | Help United States Environmental Protection Agency

Find address or place

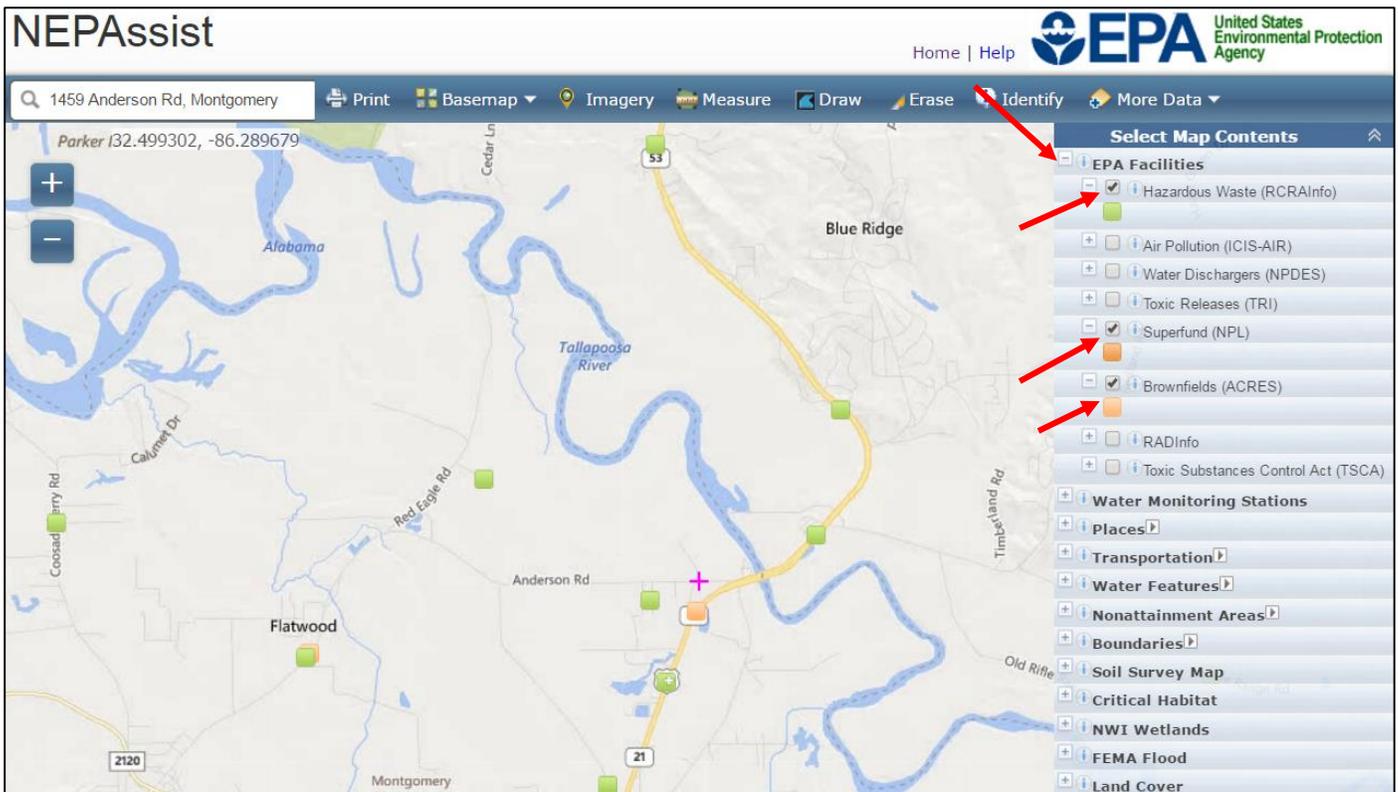
**Select Map Contents**

- [-] EPA Facilities
- [-] Water Monitoring Stations
- [-] Places
- [-] Transportation
- [-] Water Features
- [-] Nonattainment Areas
- [-] Boundaries
- [-] Soil Survey Map
- [-] Critical Habitat
- [-] NWI Wetlands
- [-] FEMA Flood
- [-] Land Cover

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 Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo), Superfund (CERCLIS) and Brownfields (ACRES) databases. Check the boxes next to those listings. A series of colored squares will populate the map as shown below.



**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. If any facilities are present inside the buffer zone determine if there is a concern for the cleanliness of the project site.

The screenshot shows the NEPAAssist web application interface. The search bar contains "1459 Anderson Rd, Montgomery". The map displays a project location marked with a plus sign (+) on Anderson Rd. A "Project Details" dialog box is open, showing the following information:

- Name: (empty field)
- Description: 1459 Anderson Rd, Montgomery, AL
- Buffer: 3000 ft
- Buttons: Add to Map, NEPAAssist Report, Delete

Red arrows point to the "Buffer" field, the units dropdown menu, and the "Add to Map" button. The "Select Map Contents" panel on the right shows various facility types, including Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo), Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR), Water Dischargers (NPDES), Toxic Releases (TRI), Superfund (NPL), Brownfields (ACRES), RADInfo, and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

**Step 5** – If the buffer zone does not contain any facilities then follow the printing instructions found below to print a copy of the map that will suffice as documentation. If there are facilities located within the buffer zone, then decide whether these facilities have any effect on the project. If the square is Orange, click on “Get Facility Report”. If it’s Green, click on “Get ECHO Report”.

The screenshot shows the NEPAAssist web application interface. The search bar contains "1459 Anderson Rd, Montgomery". The map displays a project location marked with a plus sign (+) on Anderson Rd. A large red circle indicates the 3000 ft buffer zone. A facility is highlighted in orange, and a "Get Facility Report" button is visible. Red arrows point to the facility and the button. The "Select Map Contents" panel on the right shows various facility types, including Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo), Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR), Water Dischargers (NPDES), Toxic Releases (TRI), Superfund (NPL), Brownfields (ACRES), RADInfo, and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

The "ACRES" facility details are shown in a pop-up window:

- ACRES
- Gerald Duncan Property
- 4060 WETUMPKA HIGHWAY
- MONTGOMERY, AL 36109
- Get Facility Report

**Step 5** – Review the different parts of the Facility report (example below) and determine if the site poses an issue. (It is suggested that the “Media and Contaminants” section be used to assist in the decision. If contaminants were found they should be listed here. If “None” is indicated here, then most likely, the facility was only reported because an investigation was conducted and there is no concern for contamination. If anything else is indicated, request a copy of the “All Clear” letter from the city/town or ADEM if the report does not indicate that the site is ready for redevelopment.)

**EPA** United States Environmental Protection Agency

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Cleanups >> Cleanups in My Community

### Brownfields Property Progress Profile

GERALD DUNCAN PROPERTY  
Property ID: 149041  
[Other Names for this Site](#)

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](#)

**More Details**

- Facility Information (Facility Registry System)
- Other Names for this Site
- Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet(s)

Property Location	Assessment & Cleanup Activities and Progress Summary	Assessment & Cleanup Results and Impact Summary
<p><b>EPA Region 04</b> implements the Brownfields program for the state in which this property is located.</p> <p><b>GERALD DUNCAN PROPERTY</b> 4060 Wetumpka Highway Montgomery, AL 36109</p>	<p><b>Assessment at this property is In Progress.</b></p> <p><a href="#">View Summary of the Property Progress&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Assessment Activities &gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Cleanup Activities&gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Institutional Controls&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Redevelopment Underway&gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p>Each property is assessed to determine if any <u>contaminants</u> are found.</p> <p>If the property is under an assessment grant from EPA, information on this assessment is reported to EPA.</p> <p>The assessment has found contamination at this property <a href="#">View Media Affected and Contaminants Found&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p>If the property is contaminated and is being cleaned up under a <u>cleanup</u> grant from EPA, information on the cleanup may be reported to EPA. <a href="#">View Media Addressed and Contaminants Removed&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Leveraged Accomplishments&gt;&gt;</a></p> <p>Acres Cleaned Up:</p>

Use the ECHO Report to determine if the site is contaminated or if it is just required to file reports. Check the “3-year Compliance Status” box and the “Enforcement and Compliance Summary” to make this determination.

**ECHO** Enforcement and Compliance History Online

Explore Facilities | Create Maps | Analyze Trends | Advanced Tools | Resources | Help

[ECHO Gov Login](#) | [Contact Us](#)

You are here: Home » Detailed Facility Report

## Detailed Facility Report

+ Expand All | - Collapse All

Report Violation | Report Data Error | Data Dictionary | Print | Help

**Facility Summary**

**GENE INGRAM RESIDENCE**  
4343 MARTIN LANE, MONTGOMERY, AL 36110

FRS ID: [110003382330](#)  
EPA Region: 04  
Latitude: 32.452639  
Longitude: -86.217051  
Locational Data Source: FRS  
Industry: No description found  
Indian Country: N

**3-Year Compliance Status**

RCRA

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
Quarters

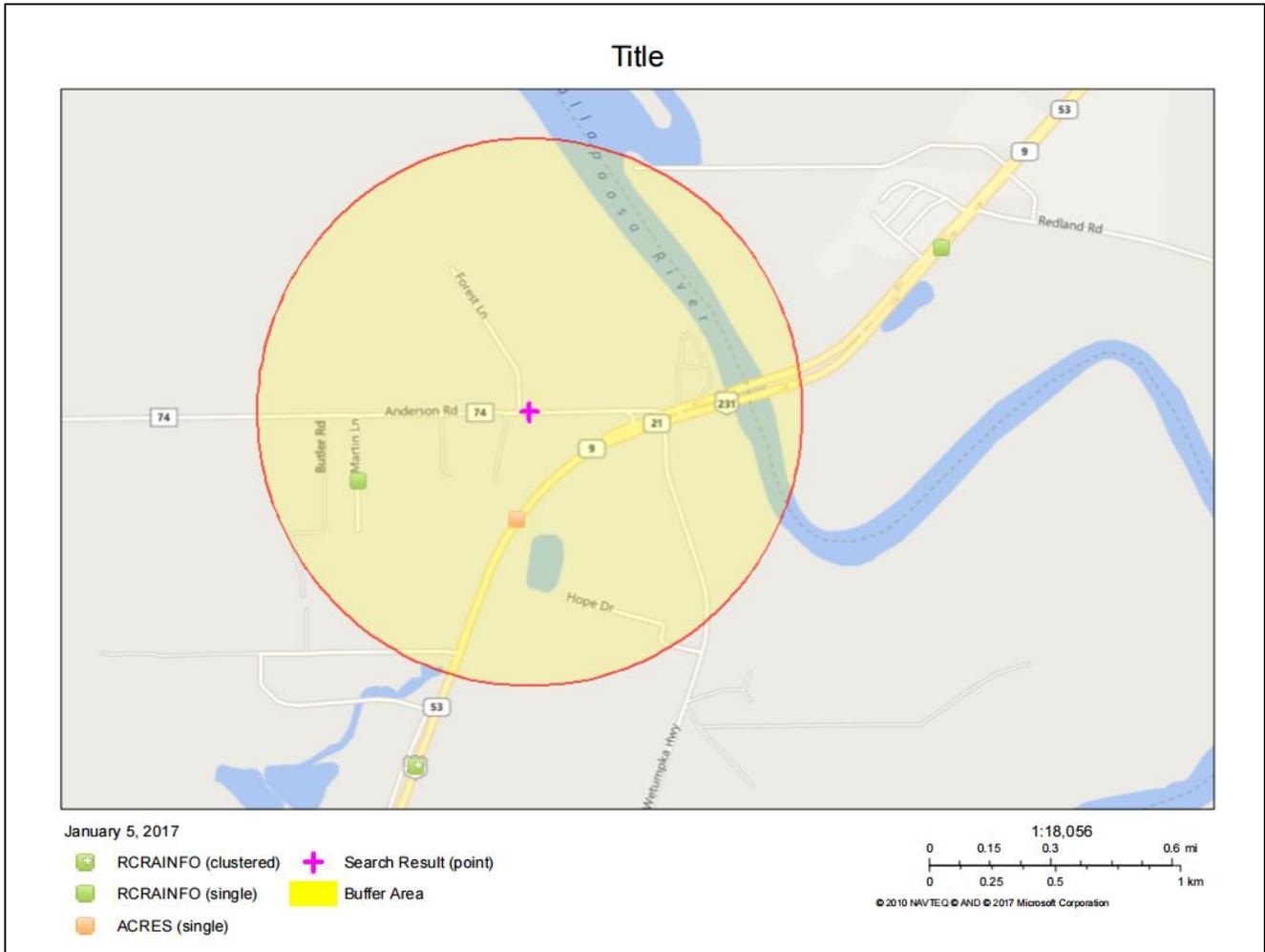
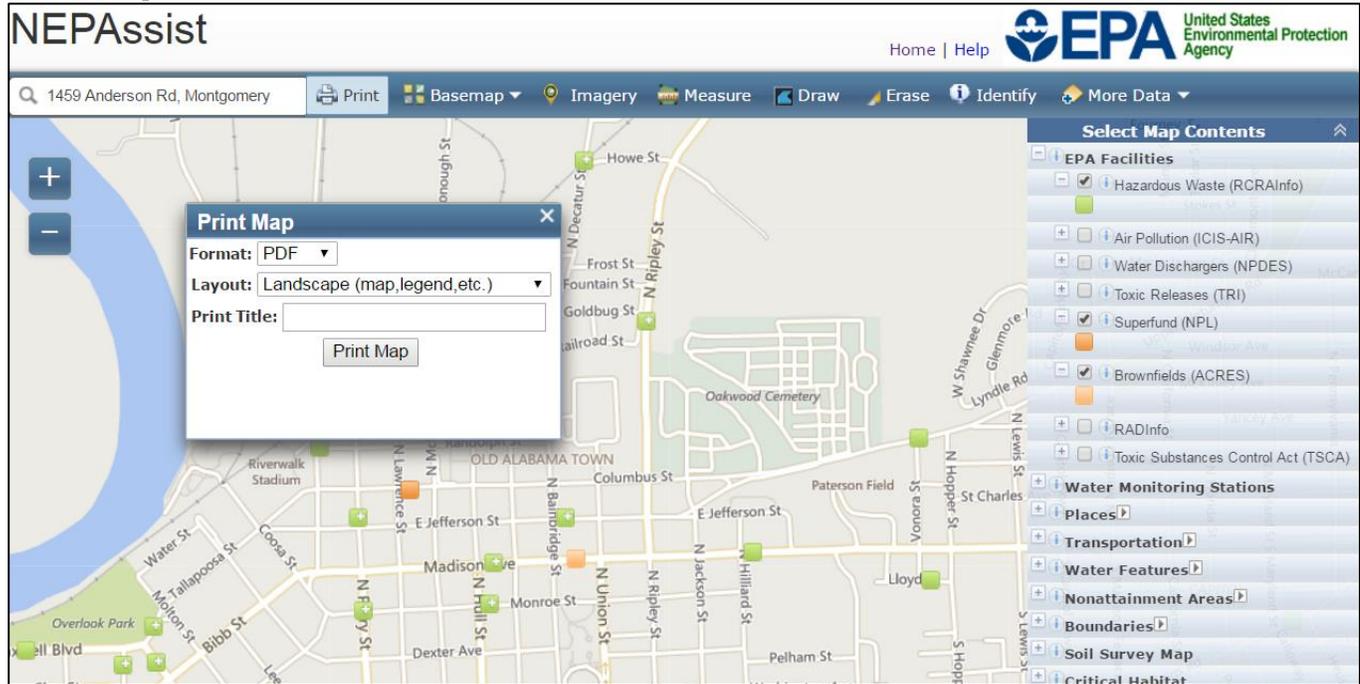
■ No Violation 
 ■ Noncompliance 
 ■ Significant Violation 
 ■ Unknown

**Enforcement and Compliance Summary**

Statute	Insp (5 Years)	Date of Last Inspection	Compliance Status	Qtrs in NC (of 12)	Qtrs in Significant Violation	Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	Penalties from Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)	EPA Cases (5 years)	Penalties from EPA Cases (5 years)
RCRA	--	10/04/2000	No Violation	0	0	--	--	--	--	--

**Step 6** – To document your decision, print the map and any reports that may be applicable. Include them in the ERR. To print the map, use the print button next to the search box or use the printscreen function. Using the print button will allow you to save a copy of the map as a pdf file.

Click print. In the “Print Map” box change the format to PDF, the layout to Landscape add a title if desired. Click print map. Save the resultant pdf.



The detail in the 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.