



**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **LDEQ awarded a \$300,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant**

**BATON ROUGE** – Yesterday, June 10, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s (LDEQ) Brownfields Program \$300,000 to facilitate the redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties into community assets. The funding comes from EPA’s Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program.

The press event included comments from EPA, JEDCO, LDEQ and partner organizations, as well as a check presentation. Speakers included: Stacey Dwyer, Deputy Director, EPA Region 6, Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment; Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality; Jerry Bologna, CEO, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission; Cynthia Lee Sheng, President, Jefferson Parish; and Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Councilwoman, City of New Orleans. The event was hosted at the Port of New Orleans for local attendees while EPA representatives participated virtually.

The federal grant will be used to assess potential Brownfields sites in historic Algiers and provide environmental assessments and cleanup plans for sites identified in the Brownfields inventory developed by the Regional Planning Commission. To date, over 150 potential Brownfields sites have been identified in the target area, including 13 gas stations, 30 auto repair/maintenance facilities, 25 dry cleaners, 21 sites with industrial/manufacturing history, and 32 sites with multiple concerns.

“LDEQ is excited to be selected for an EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization grant. This funding will allow us to continue to support communities and other stakeholders as they work to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The Brownfields program has a great record of successes with projects throughout the State, and we can’t wait to see what comes out of our new target area, historic Algiers,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

LDEQ will be partnering with Algiers Economic Development Foundation, Old Algiers Main Street, Algiers Neighborhood Presidents’ Council, and the City of New Orleans. The collective goal is to restore vacant neighborhood commercial buildings to provide space for expanding home-based entrepreneur businesses and the local artistic community. Additionally, LDEQ would like to provide Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and lead and asbestos surveys for vacant homes to support local efforts for equitable restoration/affordable housing.

Brownfields sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Under the Office of Environmental Assessment’s Remediation Division, LDEQ’s Brownfields Program partners with federal, state, and local resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfields sites throughout the Louisiana. Addressing potential environmental issues, especially financial and regulatory hurdles, is often intimidating and creates 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.

Learn more about LDEQ’s Brownfields Program at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields>.

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