

ACCD Brownfields Assessment Grant Program Q&A (circulated on 1-6-2022)

We have received a number of questions on this new program and we appreciate your patience as we are working these out. Below is what we know to date after conversations with both ACCD and DEC. We will continue to provide any other relevant information as we receive it.

- This is State funding so SSQAPPs are not needed. However, the expense may be eligible if a SSQAPP is needed, such as if state funding is partnered with federal funding for the project. This can be determined on a project basis.
- AAI - All Appropriate Inquiries Checklists are not required for Phase I's.
- Phase I ESAs for current owners of a property may be eligible projects. This would be reviewed by DEC on a project basis as this funding is not intended to benefit potentially liable parties.
- RPCs are not required to use their pre-approved EPA Environmental Consultants. VT does not have a licensing or certification program for QEPs, and we would refer you to the most current list of [consultants](#) who have done environmental work in Vermont. Vermont's Investigation and Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule (IRule) applies. Note that the name of the QEP for the project is required on the project information form. If there is any issue with the selected consultant, DEC will indicate this during their review.
- To be eligible for funding, project sites are to be BRELLA eligible, if not enrolled. For Phase I ESAs, the BRELLA eligibility requirement will be determined by DEC on a project basis during the review.
- ACCD/DEC expects that a project site be either enrolled in BRELLA, or complete a BRELLA enrollment prior to commencement of initial Phase II ESAs and subsequent investigation activities. We will defer to DEC's review on a project basis for any exemptions to this.
- Costs for BRELLA applications and fees are eligible expenses under this grant program and should be included in a project budget if the site is not enrolled.
- If you do not receive a response to your project review request from DEC after two weeks, you can proceed before approval is finalized, however, this does not guarantee reimbursement for your project if it is ultimately determined to be ineligible. If you choose to move forward before approval, please be sure to follow-up with DEC by forwarding your initial project information form email request to DEC to let them know you are moving forward and copy us.
- **IMPORTANTLY:** All project review requests submitted to DEC/Sarah Barlett must have the following subject heading in the submission email (NO MORE, NO LESS). Otherwise, your request could get buried and your review will be delayed.

"ACCD BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT REVIEW REQUEST"

- Once you receive the go ahead from DEC, there is no need to copy MARC on future correspondence as this will be covered under the progress reporting.