

HOT ISSUE

Abandoned chemical site in Ogden, UT

Key Message: A brownfields investigation of an abandoned chemical storage site in Ogden, Utah revealed a possible explosion hazard. The Removal program is immediately following up with a removal assessment.

- In early 2018, the City of Ogden engaged the EPA brownfields program in discussions regarding assistance with assessing and cleaning up a chemical storage facility they purchased in 2017. Because they had not completed All Appropriate Inquiry prior to purchase, the determination was made that they were ineligible for brownfield funding.
- With the passage of the BUILD Act in March of 2018, and the associated changes to CERCLA liability, the City again inquired about brownfields eligibility. Working in conjunction with EPA's enforcement attorneys, the brownfields program deemed the City was no longer potentially liable for the contamination and therefore eligible for brownfields funding.
- An investigation, contracted by the City prior to purchase, estimated approximately 300 drums were on the property. Based on this information, EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) assistance was requested to classify the various hazardous chemicals. This TBA work was to be performed in conjunction with a removal contractor the City planned to hire.
- Based on the site conditions encountered by EPA contractor, the TBA scope of work was amended to include an initial inventory of the chemicals on site before any additional assessment work would be performed.
- The draft TBA inventory report, completed on 11/19/18, indicated that over 40,000 chemical containers are present on the property, in varying stages of containment.
- This inventory report was immediately shared with UDEQ, as well as EPA's Site Assessment and Emergency Response/Removal Programs. Following a review, a call was scheduled for 11/21/18 with the City and all other interested parties.
- Immediately following the 11/21 call, the City shared the draft report with the fire department and had them visit the property that same day.
- With support and cooperation from the City, EPA's Removal Program will be visiting the site during the week of 12/2/18 for a Removal Assessment. UDEQ has been made aware of the site visit and may also be in attendance.
- Additional information will be available following the Removal Assessment.

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