

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected the Town of Stratford for two brownfields assessment grants. The \$400,000 community wide hazardous substance and petroleum assessment grant funds will be used to compile an inventory of potential brownfields sites in the Town, educate residents about the Town's brownfields initiative, solicit information on additional brownfields for the inventory, develop site selection criteria, prioritize the inventory, conduct Phase I site assessments, select sites for Phase II assessments, and identify possible reuse options for selected sites. The town will focus site assessments in the South End District and the Transit Centered Development district. Brownfield assessments are expected to encourage cleanup of vacant and contaminated properties and return the properties to beneficial reuse.

The EPA defines a brownfields site as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contamination." A brownfield site cannot be: the subject of planned or on-going removal actions; listed or proposed for listing on the National Priority List (NPL) / Superfund list; the subject of an administrative or court order under solid and hazardous waste laws; the subject of corrective actions or closure requirements; or a Federal facility. This is to ensure that the Federal government brownfield programs will NOT undermine the goal of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which is to ensure that the party who created the environmental contamination pays for the clean-up. Therefore, Raymark properties do not meet the requirements of a brownfields site and cannot be evaluated as part of this project.

The Town selected the team of Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. to work with the Town to perform community-wide education as well as inventory and prioritization work for the grant and recommendation to perform the EPA Phase I Assessments. The next steps are to complete the inventory of potential brownfields sites in our community. From the list, sites will be analyzed, prioritized, and selected for continuation through the assessment process.

The Town is asking the community, local businesses and residents for input on the site consideration and prioritization process. The first community meetings to discuss the project and present findings to the public are scheduled to be held at:

- **Economic Development Commission Meeting on June 12, 2012
6:30 pm at the Stratford Town Library**

- **Public Brownfield's Meeting on Tuesday June 26, 2012
6:30 pm at Birdseye Complex**

Following the inventory and prioritization process, community-wide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct between six and eight environmental site assessments. Phase I environmental site assessments will consist of a site visit and review of municipal, historical, and Connecticut Department of Energy / Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) files and available databases to determine the background and past use of the site and history of any reported releases of petroleum or other hazardous materials. This information is used to assess what type of contamination may be present at the site, and where it is likely to be located.

At the completion of Phase I assessments, a subset of the properties will be selected for Phase II environmental site assessments which will consist of sampling and analysis of soil, groundwater, and other media, based on the results of the Phase I assessment. As part of the Phase II, recommendations on cleanup options, including remedial cost estimates, will be prepared.

At various stages of the assessment process, the Town will sponsor community meetings to discuss the project and present findings to the public and solicit input. Notices will be posted on our website in advance of the meetings, and announcements will be emailed to residents and other interested parties. In addition, an information repository will be set up at the Stratford Town Hall, where residents and members of the public will have access to documents pertaining to the selected site, including Phase I and Phase II reports.

The Town will maintain a mailing list of residents and the public wishing to receive email updates on the grant related brownfields activities. We will distribute periodic updates summarizing completed and planned site activities. This mailing list will also be used to notify the public of any upcoming community meetings. Please send an email to brownfields@townofstratford.com to be added to the distribution list.