

FY2023 EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes
PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) – IV. D Narrative Information Sheet

1. Applicant Identification: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
2. Funding Requested:
 - a. Assessment Grant Type: Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes
 - b. Federal Funds Requested: \$2,000,000
 - c. Location: Geographic Boundary is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with three initial target areas and 5 initial priority sites and at least 5 additional sites identified throughout the 5-year period of performance.
3. Target Area and Priority Site Information:
 - a. Target Areas:
 - i. **Old Energy to New Energy** – This Target Area will focus on PA communities that are being impacted by closed or closing Coal Fired Power Plants. The grant will initially target the southwestern PA counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Greene and Washington and will incorporate findings from DCED’s Commissioning Playbooks when available. In addition, there is a federal interagency task force in place that could allocate additional resources to assist in the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of impacted properties surrounding the closed plants. Desired outcomes include assisting the communities with reuse planning and assessing impacted sites as well as identifying opportunities for clean and renewable energy industries and business on redeveloped sites.
 - ii. **Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** - This Target Area will focus on Central PA communities with brownfields within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. By assessing and conducting remedial planning at sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, PADEP will be assisting communities in meeting their MS4 goals and improving Pennsylvania’s efforts in meeting their Chesapeake Bay programs and goals. The PADEP assessment grant will focus on assisting communities that would not have capacity to pursue or implement their own assessment funding. Prioritization of sites will strongly consider Environmental Justice and unserved communities. One output of the work in this Target Area will be to offer new Small Community grants (out of PADEP’s EPA 128 grant) to build capacity in the Target Area.
 - iii. **Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities** – Using SEDACOG and Shamokin as a successful example of capacity building for brownfield redevelopment, the PADEP application will focus on one regional economic development organization per year during the 5-year grant period with the Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation being the first.

PADEP will utilize the EPA assessment grant to conduct a brownfield inventory for a community served by that organization, to prioritize sites for assessment, conduct Phase 1 ESAs on the highest priority sites and to develop a strategy for the organization and the community to pursue funding to continue to address Priority Sites. The PADEP will also assign a Brownfield Action Team to the organization for training on developing brownfield redevelopment strategies and providing assistance to their served communities. The vision is to develop a program that can be replicated throughout Pennsylvania.

b. Priority Sites: (Addresses of the priority sites proposed in the Narrative)

i. Target Area 1:

1. Cheswick Generating Station
151 Porter Street
Springdale, PA 15144

ii. Target Area 2:

1. Harrisburg International Airport
One Terminal Drive, Suite 300
Middletown, PA 17057
2. Codorus Greenway
Beaver Street at North Street
York, PA 17401
3. Berwick Railroad Park
14 Canal Street
Berwick, PA 18603

iii. Target Area 3:

1. Appvion Paper Mill site
100 Paper Mill Road
Roaring Springs, PA 16673

4. Contacts:

a. Project Director

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b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official:

Mr. Darrin Bodner, Executive Deputy Secretary, PADEP
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5. Population:

Coal Fired Power Plant Cities	Coal Fired Power Plant City Populations	Chesapeake Bay Cities	Chesapeake Bay City Populations	Rural Capacity Building Location	Rural Capacity Building Populations
Springdale, PA	3,307	Middletown, PA	9,410	Roaring Springs, PA	2,475
		York, PA	44,019		
		Berwick, PA	10,003		

6. Other Factors: Applicants claiming one or more of the other factors below must provide a summary in the Narrative on the applicable other factor(s). Please identify which of the below items apply to your community/proposed project by noting the corresponding Narrative page number. If none of the Other Factors apply to your community/proposed project, please provide a statement to that effect.

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	Pg 5 (4 sites)
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them.)	Pg 1-3 (5 sites)
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	Pg 1-3 (5 sites)
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	Pg 1-3
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	Pg 1-3
The reuse strategy or project reuse of the priority site(s) considers climate adaptation and/or mitigation measures.	Pg 1-3
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section I.B., for priority site(s) within the target area(s).	Pg 1-4
The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2012 or later) or is closing.	Pg 1-2

7. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority (not included in the three-page limit)
Not Applicable – The applicant, PADEP, is the state environmental authority.

8. Releasing Copies of Applications

Not Applicable - The application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information.

PADEP Community Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION (40 points)

1.a. Target Areas and Brownfields (15 points)

1.a.i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas (5 points)

Geographic Boundary of the PADEP Community Wide Assessment grant application is the Commonwealth of PA. PADEP has identified 3 initial target areas and 5 initial priority sites focusing on assisting EJ Communities in both metropolitan and rural areas. PA has 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Each Target Area encompasses multiple MSAs dependent on where Priority Sites have been and will be identified. Therefore, community impacts and statistics have been developed based on census tracts rather than MSAs.

Target Area 1: Old Energy to New Energy – Target Area 1 will focus on PA communities impacted by closed or closing Coal Fired Power Plants. The grant will initially target the southwestern PA counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Greene and Washington and will incorporate findings from DCED’s Commissioning Playbooks when available. With the exception of Allegheny, each of these counties also has an EPA Assessment grant and combining efforts with these counties could maximize the impact of the EPA investments. In addition, there is a federal interagency task force in place that could allocate additional resources to assist in the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of impacted properties surrounding the closed plants. Desired outcomes include assisting the communities with reuse planning and assessing impacted sites as well as identifying opportunities for clean and renewable energy industries and business on redeveloped sites.

Target Area 2: Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed - Target Area 2 focuses on Central PA communities with brownfields within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. By assessing and conducting remedial planning at sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, PADEP will be assisting communities in meeting their MS4 goals and improving PA’s efforts in meeting their Chesapeake Bay programs and goals. The PADEP assessment grant will focus on assisting communities that would not have capacity to pursue or implement their own assessment funding. Prioritization of sites will strongly consider Environmental Justice and unserved communities. One output of the work in this Target Area may be to offer new Small Community grants (out of PADEP’s EPA 128 grant) to build capacity in the Target Area.

Target Area 3: Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities – Using SEDACOG and Shamokin as a successful example of capacity building for brownfield redevelopment, the PADEP application will focus on one regional economic development organization per year during the 5-year grant period with the Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation being the first. PADEP will utilize the EPA assessment grant to conduct a brownfield inventory for a community served by that organization, to prioritize sites for assessment, conduct Phase 1 ESAs on the highest priority sites and to develop a strategy for the organization and the community to pursue funding to continue to address Priority Sites. The PADEP will also assign a Brownfield Action Team to the organization for training on developing brownfield redevelopment strategies and providing assistance to their served communities. The goal is to develop a capacity-building program that can be replicated throughout PA.

1.a.ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites (10 points)

5 Initial Priority Sites have been identified with at least 5 additional sites to be identified throughout the 5-year grant period. Addresses of the 5 initial Priority Sites are provided in the Narrative Information Sheet.

Target Area 1: Cheswick Generating Station, Springdale, PA – Cheswick Generating Station in Springdale is located on the Allegheny River and much of the 56+ acre site is within the river’s floodplain. The plant was shut down in April 2022 after more than 50 years of operation. It was the last coal-fired electric power plant in Allegheny County. Commissioned in 1970, it produced 565 megawatts of electricity. GenOn Holdings blamed the closure on “unfavorable economic conditions, higher costs, including those associated with environmental compliance, an inability to compete with other generation types and evolving market rules that promote subsidized sources.” More than 50 jobs were lost with the closure. The plant property was purchased in December 2021 and the new owner has announced plans to demolish the plant and promote the use of the

site for renewable energy and energy efficient businesses. The EPA brownfield assessment grant would be a crucial resource to the Springdale community as Allegheny County is the only southwestern PA county that does not have an EPA brownfield grant. The assessment grant would assist the Springdale community in the assessment of impacted sites related to the power plant and will help to facilitate active participation in the reuse planning of the site itself. Reuse planning will include evaluation of climate change mitigation measures as well. Of particular significance is the plant's proximity to the Rachel Carson homestead and park and a large undeveloped parcel located directly across from the generating facility that supports the Rachel Carson trail.

Target Area 2: 3 Priority Sites identified along Chesapeake Bay Corridor (north to south)

1. **Berwick Railroad Park, Berwick, PA** - The proposed site is a 4+ acre riverfront property in Berwick, PA. The site stretches for over 1000 feet along the riverfront of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, the major tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and is located within the river's floodplain. The site is a key parcel in the *Berwick Canal Street Reclamation and Reuse Project*. The first known use of the site was for a railroad line and an associated rail station. The site still has the historic rail station building that was built for the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad nearly 120 years ago. The historic building has not been accessible to the townspeople of Berwick during its lengthy industrial use, and its return would be an asset to the community. For approximately 60 years, up until recently, the site had been used as a metal scrapyard/junkyard. As no recent environmental sampling or remediation, beyond junk/scrap removal, has been conducted at the site, there remains a potential for significant environmental issues based on the historic site use including metal contamination, oils and other petroleum hydrocarbons (including cutting oil from the metal scrap), solvents used to degrease the metal, PCB contamination from reclaimed transformers, and potentially other contaminants. This contamination could impact both the soil and groundwater at the site. The site is located adjacent to the water supply for the town of Berwick. The site is also located immediately adjacent to the Susquehanna River in Berwick, and as such, any potential contamination could also reach the Susquehanna River, either by direct discharge of potentially contaminated groundwater to surface water in the river or by stormwater runoff mobilizing contaminated soil. Berwick is an EJ community based on the PADEP EJ viewer. As an EJ community, it is a focus of PADEP's efforts to promote environmentally responsible redevelopment and growth in these communities where systemic challenges may exist for development. The general reuse plan is to take advantage of the historic railroad terminal building and use the outside riverfront space for outdoor seating at a restaurant/pub and/or a small amphitheater the community could use. The PADEP assessment grant would support environmental assessments at this site as well as facilitate community involvement and reuse planning that would help the community bring their visions for this site to fruition and mitigate impacts to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
2. **Harrisburg International Airport (HIA), Middletown, PA** - The HIA is located along the Susquehanna River, a major tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and is located within the river's floodplain. The property is 800 acres in size. HIA is owned and operated by the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA). HIA has been serving Central PA since 1898, originally as the site of the Olmstead Airforce Base, then switching to commercial service upon decommissioning in 1969. In addition to HIA, SARAA operates and maintains groundwater source wells, water pipelines, water storage tanks, and the water treatment plant. SARAA also operates and maintains the sanitary wastewater collection and treatment systems at HIA. The area serviced by the water supply system at HIA includes the main terminal, various support facilities located on airport property, commercial and retail activity associated with airport operations both within and external to the terminal building, the PA National Guard facilities located on HIA property and commercial and industrial connections located on or adjacent to the Harrisburg International Airport. The EPA assessment grant funds would be utilized to do a comprehensive site characterization of HIA to address the health and safety concerns created by the presence of emerging contaminants (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, collectively known as PFAS chemicals) in groundwater and stormwater conveyance/discharge at HIA. Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS has been deployed at HIA for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training, testing, operational requirements, and emergency

responses. Due to the effectiveness of AFFF, it also mandated by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that commercial airports train with, calibrate equipment with, and use the best performing AFFF fire suppression systems. In the past, the hazards to human health and the environment were not as well-known as they are today and there were few guidelines in the handling and management of AFFF and wastewater contaminated with foam. Wastewater contaminated with AFFF (e.g. firefighting runoff) was often treated like storm water and was allowed to seep into soil and groundwater or was discharged as surface water runoff. The contamination can then reach sensitive receptors by being extracted by drinking water wells or by recharging surface water features, such as the Susquehanna River in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. With regard to environmental management, PFAS will have a potentially significant impact on how environmental media are investigated and remediated and has the potential to significantly affect capital improvement projects should contamination of PFAS be encountered. PADEP's assessment grant would be utilized to do site characterization and assessment to identify and gauge the level of PFAS contamination associated with the historical use of AFFF and gain a better understanding of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to mitigate future contamination. One outcome of this effort would be development of AFFF BMPs that could be utilized throughout PA.

3. **Codorus Greenway, York, PA** - The Codorus Greenway project area is approximately 20 acres located on the Codorus Creek within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and is in the Creek's floodplain. This project is part of a larger effort to revitalize the south end of the City of York including a mixed income housing project, extension of the York College Campus to the creek's edge and redevelopment of the Dentsply site. Heavy industrial uses have lined the banks of the Codorus in the City since the late 1700's to the modern day. The Greenway project proposes to excavate in the banks of the creek to restore natural stream functionality and provide water access to local residents. Because excavation could expose buried industrial impacts, it is important to identify potential contaminants for removal, remediation, or isolation during construction. The PADEP assessment grant will be used to provide assessments to support the Greenway project. Removal of contamination from Codorus Creek will directly benefit the waterways of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Target Area 3: Appvion Paper Mill site, Roaring Springs, PA - The Roaring Spring paper mill (Mill) is a 330 acres with more than 400,000 square feet of space under roof. The property is situated in the southern tier of Blair County adjacent to Halter Creek, a class A designated wild trout stream by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Much of the site is within the Creek's floodplain. The mill was founded 1866 and operated under several domestic and foreign owners until November 2001, when employees purchased the company. At its height, the Mill employed approximately 500 people. The mill was a fully integrated pulp and paper mill which processed logs and wood chips to produce the fiber or pulp needed to make paper on site. In February 2021, the mill was closed displacing all remaining 297 employees. Company officials cited both the pandemic impact and negative shifts in the paper market globally as the primary reasons. The Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation has continued coordination with property owners and the community with the intent of supporting eventual reuse of the former Mill property. The PADEP assessment grant would be used to assess the environmental conditions at the site, to conduct community-based reuse planning and to develop a reuse strategy that aligns with local revitalization plans for the property. ABCD would be supported by a Brownfield Action Team funded through the assessment grant in order to build their brownfields redevelopment capacity and to develop a model to be replicated with other regional economic development organizations in PA.

1.b Revitalization of the Target Areas (10 points)

1.b.i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans (5 points)

Each of the Priority Site descriptions provided in Section 1.a.ii. also include the reuse strategy for that site and how the site's reuse aligns with the community's goals and values. In addition, the reuse strategies for each Priority Site align with PADEP's goals of protecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; addressing the impacts of emerging contaminants such as PFAS; improving the environment and the economy in Environmental Justice

and other underserved communities; and capacity building for addressing brownfields in PA's smaller and rural communities.

1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy (5 points)

Each of the Priority Site descriptions provided in Section 1.a.ii. also identify intended outcomes resulting from investment of the EPA Assessment grant funds if they are known. For example, in Target Area 1, investment of EPA Assessment grant funds will result in robust community involvement and reuse planning for a closed coal-fired power plant along with environmental assessments at potentially impacted properties in the Springdale community. The new owner has expressed an interest in reusing the site for renewable or clean energy generation. As such, outcomes expected in Target Area 1 include new job creation and tax revenue generation at the redeveloped power plant site. In Target Area 2, PADEP has focused on protection of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as an intended outcome of utilization of EPA grant funds. In addition, revitalization of key Priority Sites in Berwick and York will generate job creation and tax revenue generation while reconnecting those communities to the waterfront. Finally, in Target Area 2, an outcome that is expected from the assessment of PFAS contamination is the creation of BMPs that can be utilized throughout PA. One of the outcomes expected in the Target Area 3 Priority Site is the building of brownfield redevelopment capacity in the small, rural community of Roaring Springs through the support of ABCD Corporation as a regional resource. Community-driven reuse planning for the former paper mill site will generate a reuse strategy that benefits the community that has lost jobs and revenue when this major employer closed during the COVID pandemic.

1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources (15 points)

1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse (10 points)

PADEP receives EPA brownfield funding via EPA's 128 grant annually. PADEP intends to utilize some of their 128 grant funding to support efforts in their Assessment Grant programming. For example, PADEP already uses 128 grant funding to award Small Community Grants that generate brownfield inventories for communities who would not have the capacity to conduct the inventory on their own. PADEP proposes to award Small Community Grants to communities in Target Area 3 as part of their capacity building effort. For Target Area 1, PADEP intends to build upon the Commonwealth's investment in the Coal-fired Power Plant Reuse Playbooks. Additional funding may also become available for Target Area 1 from the federal Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization. Leveraged resources for the Target Area 2 Priority Sites could include infrastructure improvement funding available through PA's PennVEST programs for wastewater, stormwater and drinking water infrastructure.

1.c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure (5 points)

At each of the Priority Sites there will be opportunities to use existing infrastructure. However, it is expected that reuse planning will identify specific needs for new or improved supporting infrastructure as well. In Target Area 1, it is expected that much of the power generating equipment could be reused for a new power generation operation. In Target Area 2, the train station building in Berwick is proposed for reuse while the Codorus Greenway project proposes to improve the stream bank infrastructure as part of that project. Reuse plans for the Target Area 3 site in Roaring Springs has not yet been developed, so evaluation of existing infrastructure has not yet happened.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (45 points)

2.a. Community Need (30 points)

2.a.i. The Community's Need for Funding

PA is a prime example of diversity in America. From rural towns to small and large cities, PA's challenges can vary significantly within a single county and across the state. Small cities, such as York PA, can experience both high levels of poverty (95% per CEJST) and high economic Justice Indexes. Other communities, such as Middletown, are small towns with under 10,000 population near industrial or other areas of known contaminants. These small towns do not have the tax base to support costly brownfield projects and don't have the assessments needed to attract additional funding. While PA has a robust Land Recycling Program, the

need continues to dramatically outweigh the resources. The target areas of this application are specifically selected to focus on areas with significant need – those impacted by the closure of coal fired power plants; those communities that lack capacity and which are located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and small and rural communities. Example sites within each target area have been identified to illustrate the community needs, as follows:

Priority Site/Address	County	Blockgroup	Census Tract	Census Tract Population ¹	Area of Need
Target Area 1: Old Energy to New Energy					
Cheswick Generating Station (CGS) 151 Porter Street Springdale, PA 15144	Allegheny	420034172001	42003417200	1,329	Low Population @ 3,307
Target Area 2: Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed					
Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) One Terminal Drive, Middletown, PA 17057	Dauphin	420430236022	42043023602	6,066	Low Population @ 9,410*
Codorus Greenway (CG) Beaver Street at North Street York, PA 17401	York	421330016001	42133001600	1,531	Low income @ 68%
Berwick Railroad Park (BRP) Canal Street, Berwick PA 18603	Columbia	420370506005	42037050600	5,325	Low Population @ 10,003
Target Area 3: Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities					
Appvion Paper Mill (APM) 100 Paper Mill Road Roaring Spring, PA 16673	Blair	420130115003	42013011500	5,812	Low Population @ 2,475*

*Total population data is from mailing address city. Target site is outside city limits; census tract population is from EJ Screen data specific to the selected site census tract.

2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

The target areas are home to higher than average sensitive populations, increasing the impact of the contaminated sites. The Codorus Greenway is located in York, PA, which has 72% people of color, compared to 40% in the US and 24% in the State. The percentage of people who speak limited English is almost 3 times the national average, as is the percent of people who have less than a high school education. All of the example sites located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Target Area have higher percentages of lower income residents than the State (28%) and US (30%): the Airport site at 57%, the Greenway site at 77%, and Berwick at 67%. For children under 5, the Airport at 20% and Codorus Greenway at 10% have higher percentages of children as compared to the State (5%) and the US (6%). For older people, Springdale, home to the example Cheswick Generating Station site, has 23% of people over the age of 64, with York having 44%, compared to 18% at the State and 16% nationally.

Additional key statistics²:

¹ USEPA EJ Screen

² ACS 2016-2020

	Target Area 1	Target Area 2			Target Area 3	State	US
Target Site	Cheswick Generating Station	Harrisburg International Airport	Codorus Greenway	Berwick Railroad Park	Appvion Paper Mill	PA	US
Blockgroup	420034172001	420430236022	421330016001	420370506005	420130115003		
People of Color	5%	35%	72%	2%	1%	24%	40%
Low Income	27%	57%	77%	67%	21%	28%	30%
Unemployment Rate	13%	7%	5%	2%	2%	5%	5%
Limited English Speaking	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	2%	5%
Less Than High School Education	7%	7%	37%	9%	7%	9%	12%
Under Age 5	4%	20%	10%	2%	4%	5%	6%
Over Age 64	23%	6%	44%	12%	14%	18%	16%
Areas in blue are sensitive populations higher than the national %							

Redevelopment of the target areas will help to alleviate the pressures on these communities and these sensitive populations, by removing blighted properties and environmental contaminants, and by bringing back jobs and creating new recreational amenities. For example, redevelopment of the Cheswick Generating Station will transform a former polluting, fossil fuel site into a clean renewable energy site that will bring jobs back to the community in a sustainable way, thus providing employment opportunities to Springdale. The Codorus Greenway site will provide recreational opportunities for the disadvantaged and sensitive population in York, PA, while removing contaminants, providing water access, and increasing the flood storage area to make the neighborhood more resilient.

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

PA experiences higher infant mortality than the US at large - a mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000 live births as compared to 5.6 nationally – which is the equivalent of 39 more infants each year than would be expected at the national average, not living to their first birthday³. Infant mortality at the Priority Site in Target Area 1: Allegheny County is higher than both PA and the US at 6.6 per 1000 live births⁴. According to the PA Department of Health, there were over 79,000 new cases of cancer State-wide in 2019, the most recent year data is available. Pennsylvanians have a 1 in 2 chance of having cancer in their lifetime and a 1 in 5 chance of dying of cancer⁵. All of PA's target areas have higher rates of cancer than the statewide rates, which in turn is higher than the national rate. PA's crude cancer rate is 128.0, while those in the associated counties for Target Area 1: Allegheny County (131.8), and Target Area 2: Columbia County (138.6) and Target Area 3: Blair County (150.2)⁶ are higher. According to the CDC, the 2019 age-adjusted cancer rate in PA is 457.5, which is higher

³ <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/state-summaries/united-states?top=3®=99&lev=1&stop=55&obj=3&slev=4> and <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/state-summaries/PA?reg=99&stop=60&sreg=42&top=3>

⁴ <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/data?reg=99&top=6&stop=91&lev=1&slev=4&obj=1&sreg=42&cmp=42003&creg>

⁵ <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoieE1Mjg1MTMTNW50OC00MjYzLTU0OTgtMzVjYmY4Y2Y5MmJmliwidCI6IjQxOGUyODQxLTAxMjgtNGRkNS05YjZjLTQ3ZmM1YTlhMWJkZSJ9> (These data were provided by the PA Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions – applies to all PADOH)

⁶ <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoieE1Mjg1MTMTNW50OC00MjYzLTU0OTgtMzVjYmY4Y2Y5MmJmliwidCI6IjQxOGUyODQxLTAxMjgtNGRkNS05YjZjLTQ3ZmM1YTlhMWJkZSJ9>

than the national average rate (439)⁷. Lead exposure is also a significant concern in the target areas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals* reports lead exposure at rates in 2018 higher than the PA average of 5.1% in Target Area 2: Dauphin County (8%), York County (6.2%), Columbia County (6.4%) and Target Area 3: Blair County (10%), which is nearly twice the State average)⁸.

Justice40 Disadvantaged Communities - Health (per Climate EJST)

City Census Tract	Disadvantage and other key stats	Percentile
Target Area 1: Old Energy to New Energy		
Springdale (Cheswick Station) 42003417200	Asthma	70 th
	Low Life Expectance	93 rd
Target Area 2: Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed		
Middletown (Airport site) 42043023700	Asthma	93 rd
	Diabetes	72 nd
	Heart Disease	67 th
	Low life expectancy	88 th
York (Codorus Greenway) 42133001600	Asthma	94 th
	Diabetes	92 nd
	Heart Disease	96 th
Berwick (Railroad Park) 42037050600	Asthma	80 th
	Diabetes	48 th
	Heart Disease	67 th
	Low life expectancy	85 th
Target Area 3: Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities		
Roaring Spring (Appvion Paper Mill) 42013011500	Lead paint	89 th
	Asthma	73 rd

The assessment, cleanup, and reuse of brownfields will remove environmental hazards such as exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum, which will in turn improve the health of the community, decreasing the prevalence of health issues such as asthma, birth defects, and cancer. Remediation and reuse plans will also improve the community through adding parks for local recreational activities, thereby increasing community health through exercise, adding businesses thereby creating new jobs and better wage-earning opportunities, and removing blight, which bring more pride in communities and more opportunities for economic development.

(3) Promoting Environmental Justice

The three target areas are specifically chosen to further objectives that will reduce environmental injustice. *Target Area 1: Old Energy to New Energy* seeks to assist in the transition to a clean energy future by helping communities who are experiencing job loss from decommissioning fossil fuel plants by revitalizing them as renewable energy centers. This will provide green sustainable jobs, and reduce exposure to petroleum contaminants that may lead to increased negative outcomes for pregnant women, health issues for young children and seniors, and increase the incidence of cancer. The example sites within *Target Area 2: Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* clearly illustrate how this objective will reduce environmental injustice. The target census tract in Middletown (Airport site) is identified as disadvantaged by the CEJST in Health burdens, due to the extremely high (93rd %ile) incidence of asthma. The target Census Tract within the City of York (Codorus Greenway) is identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) in three categories: Legacy pollution, Health burdens and Workforce development. York is

⁷https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcancer%2Fdataviz%2Findex.htm#/AtAGlance/

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/state/padata.htm>

particularly impacted by asthma (94thile) and heart disease (96thile). Exposure to hazardous materials and contaminants may lead to the high asthma rates seen in both these locations, which, in addition to being a serious health risk (especially in very young and senior residents), places additional financial burdens on low income families. The target census tract in Berwick (Railroad Park site) is identified as disadvantaged by CEJST in the category of Sustainable Housing, due to the high incidence of lead paint (92nd %ile). Exposure to lead has been shown to cause anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage, especially for very young children. Addressing environmental contamination in these communities will improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, as well as reduce the overall environmental burden of those already disadvantaged by disproportionate exposure to contaminants and unhealthy housing, contributing to high incidences of asthma and lead poisoning. Two of the identified example sites will be redeveloped as open space, creating new recreational opportunities that can help reduce incidences of heart disease and diabetes. *Target Area 3: Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities* seeks to partner with regional economic development organizations to increase their capacity to address brownfield sites in small and rural communities that do not otherwise have access to resources to develop inventories, select sites, involve the community, and assess the sites to position them for redevelopment. These communities typically are burdened with older housing stock with high incidence of lead paint, lack of access to healthcare, and lack of living wage jobs. The table below provides information on key statistics of the communities where the targeted sites are located.

Justice40 Disadvantaged Communities Other-Than-Health (per CEJST unless noted by* EJ Screen):

City Census Tract	Disadvantage and other key stats	Percentile
Target Area 1: Old Energy to New Energy		
Springdale (Cheswick Station) 42003417200	Higher Ed non-enrollment	96 th
	PM2.5	93 rd
	Lead Paint	88 th
	Proximity to hazardous waste facilities	87 th
	Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities	94 th
	Wastewater discharge	83 rd
	Low life expectancy	93 rd
Target Area 2: Brownfield Sites within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed		
Middletown (Airport Site) 42043023700 *EJ Screen Blockgroup 420430236022	PM2.5*	88 th
	Diesel Particulate Matter*	83 rd
	Air Toxics Cancer Risk*	84 th
	Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	86 th
	Traffic Proximity*	82 nd
	RMP Facility Proximity*	88 th
	Hazardous Waste Proximity*	87 th
	Underground Storage Tanks*	80 th
	Wastewater Discharge*	80 th
	Higher education non-enrollment	84 th
York (Codus Greenway) 42133001600	Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities	93 rd
	Low income	94 th
	Unemployment	97 th
	Poverty	95 th
	High School Degree Non-attainment (10% threshold)	26%
	Higher Education Non-enrollment	97%
Berwick (Railroad Park) 42037050600	Lead Paint	92 nd
	Low income	66 th
	Higher education non-enrollment	92%
Target Area 3: Investments in Capacity Building in Small and Rural Communities		
Roaring Spring (Appvion Paper Mill) 42013011500	Higher Ed non-attainment	97 th

2.b. Community Engagement (15 points)

2.b.i. Project Involvement (5 points) and 2.b.ii. Project Roles (5 points)

PADEP recognizes the importance of community involvement in the brownfields prioritization and redevelopment process. PADEP will work with state leaders to establish a collaborative Community Advisory Committee in each target area to guide the project, lead community engagement and outreach activities at the local level, and assist in developing a sustainable brownfields redevelopment program for each target area and also the entire state. PADEP's Office of Environmental Justice will also be involved in Community Outreach in each Target Area. For each Target Area, PADEP will establish a local Community Advisory Committee comprised of local stakeholders. Initial Project Partners are identified in the matrix below, however additional stakeholders will be identified and added as the efforts are launched at each of the Priority Sites.

Name of organization/entity/group	Point of contact (name, email, & phone)	Specific involvement in the project or assistance provided
Allegheny County Planning Department	Lance Chimka, Director Lance.chimka@alleghenycounty.us 412-622-4042	Coordination with local government officials; and planning support
Community Strategies Group	Josh Nespoli, Deputy Director jnespoli@csgpa.org 570-394-4905	Property owner & developer of Berwick site
York County Economic Alliance	Silas Chamberlin, PhD, Vice President, Economic & Community Development schamberlin@yceapa.org 717.718.7850	Coordination with local government officials and planning support
Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA)	Jessica Silcox, Environmental Program Manager (SARAA) Susquehanna Area Regional Jessicas@saraa.org 717.948.3900 Ext. 4607	Property owner of HIA
The Altoona Blair County Development Corporation	Stephen J. McKnight, President and CEO steven@abgcdcorp.org (814) 312-5251	Regional Economic Development Organization & Coordination with local government officials and site owners

2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input (5 points)

The PADEP Project Director will lead the community outreach efforts with support from the project team (QEP and PADEP staff). PADEP's Office of Environmental Justice will also be involved in Community Outreach in each Target Area. For each Target Area, PADEP will establish a local Community Advisory Committee comprised of local stakeholders. Specific community outreach activities will include creating a steering committee, holding community meetings in the Target Areas, and preparation of outreach materials. Steering committee meetings will occur approximately quarterly and may be in-person, virtual or hybrid. The project team will also conduct outreach in the Target Areas to community groups, property owners, and developers, as needed, but these community meetings will average 4 per year. Outreach materials will include articles, press releases, success stories, and web and social media updates.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS (50 points)

3.a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs (30 points) – Items 3.a.i. through 3.a.v.

PADEP will use the requested funds to complete four main tasks which will be implemented as described in the table below (3.a.i.). Each Task Description also addresses how additional sites will be identified (3.a.ii.); anticipated Project Schedule (3.a.iii.); Task Lead (3.a.iv.) and expected Outputs (3.a.v.). PADEP will not be utilizing this EPA Assessment grant funding for Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel or other non-site related expenses. These costs will be borne by PADEP through other funding sources in order to maximize the amount of funding to be utilized in the Target Areas and on the Priority Sites directly.

Task 1: Project Management & Reporting

i. Task Implementation: The PADEP Project Director with the support of the Program Staff in Central and the Regional Offices and the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) team will oversee the grant management and compliance with EPA cooperative agreement terms and conditions. The Project Director will ensure tasks are completed efficiently and will be responsible for oversight of the QEP. PADEP will establish a Steering Committee which will meet quarterly and be composed of PADEP regional office staff and representatives from other state agencies to guide the brownfields project, help identify additional target areas, and, most importantly, identify, secure, and implement other resources and funding in the Target Areas. The Project Director will hold monthly project team meetings and quarterly steering committee meetings to review the project and make corrections as needed to stay on schedule and meet the project's goals. With assistance from the QEP, PADEP will complete EPA quarterly reports, annual reporting, and ACRES database entries/updates. PADEP staff will also attend national and regional training workshops relevant to brownfields. PADEP, with assistance from the QEP, will draft a Final Performance Report to document accomplishments and lessons learned.

ii. Identification of Additional Sites: The Project Director will use monthly project team meetings to also request additional sites from the PADEP regional offices and sister state agencies for consideration as new priority sites.

iii. Anticipated Project Schedule: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2028

iv. Task/Activity Lead: PADEP Project Director

v. Outputs: 60 Monthly Team Meetings; 20 Quarterly SC Meetings; 20 Quarterly ACRES updates; 5 Annual Reports; 1 Final Grant Closeout Report; 20 Property Eligibility Forms; Identification of at least 5 additional candidate sites for discussion with Target Area Steering Committees.

Task 2: Community Outreach

i. Task Implementation: The PADEP Project Director will lead the community outreach efforts with support from the project team (QEP and PADEP staff). PADEP's Office of Environmental Justice will also be involved in Community Outreach in each Target Area. For each Target Area, PADEP will establish a local Community Advisory Committee comprised of local stakeholders, such as but not limited to those identified in Section 2.c of the Narrative. Specific community outreach activities will include creating a steering committee, holding community meetings in the Target Areas, and preparation of outreach materials. Steering committee meetings will occur approximately quarterly and may be in-person, virtual or hybrid. The project team will also conduct outreach in the Target Areas to community groups, property owners, and developers, as needed, but these community meetings will average 4 per year. Outreach materials will include articles, press releases, success stories, and web and social media.

ii. Identification of Additional Sites: The Project Director will use Community Steering Committee and Outreach meetings to identify additional candidate sites. Ranking criteria will be developed with the Steering Committee and will include such attributes as site ownership, development potential, consistency with local and regional development goals, and potential improvements to human health and the environment especially in Justice40 and other environmental justice communities or underserved areas. Ranking Criteria will use data from EJScreen, the Social Vulnerability Index, and the Justice40 initiative to identify areas of need in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas that do not currently have access to EPA brownfield funding and lack the resources to pursue funding. The team will identify opportunities where other partner agency resources are being or can be applied to achieve meaningful improvements in a community.

iii. Anticipated Project Schedule: October 2023 – September 2028; steering committee meetings in 1st month of each quarter; project fact sheets and press releases begin in 2nd quarter and will continue through the end of the project; community meetings anticipated quarterly.

iv. Task/Activity Lead: PADEP Project Director with support from Project Team

iv. Outputs: 20 Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings in each Target Area; 20 community meetings in each Priority Site community; 10 articles, press releases, or success stories; 10 media updates; Identification of at least 5 additional priority sites during the period of performance.

Task 3: Site Assessments and Cleanup Planning

i. Task Implementation: With PADEP oversight, the QEP will complete site assessments on sites identified as priorities for the community. Site Eligibility Forms will be completed for EPA approval, and petroleum determinations will be obtained from PADEP UST Division. Phase I ESAs will be performed by the QEP in accordance with ASTM E1527 and the EPA All Appropriate Inquiry Final Rule. Phase II ESAs will be conducted by the consultant in accordance with ASTM E1903, after the approval of a Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPrP) and Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs). The consultant will also develop Health and Safety Plans (HSPs) prior to field work. ACM and LBP surveys will be completed for many of the older buildings and/or building debris piles on priority sites. If contamination is identified, cleanup plans or Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) will be developed.

ii. Identification of Additional Sites – During performance of environmental site assessments, it is possible that additional sites may be identified. Those sites will be evaluated by PADEP and the Steering Committee for that Target Areas to rank the site for consideration for utilization of grant funds for assessment. It is expected that several Phase 1 ESAs will recommend a Phase 2 ESA or other additional site assessment work. The cost for the additional Phase 2 or other site assessments will be considered by PADEP and the Steering Committee to evaluate the value of conducting the additional work in the context of the communities priorities.

iii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Generic QAPrP will be submitted in the 1st quarter. Phase I ESAs and ACM and LBP surveys will be initiated in the 2nd quarter and continue as funding allows until the 17th quarter. Surveys and Phase II ESAs will be initiated in the 3rd quarter after approval of QAPrP, and SAPs, HSPs, and Phase IIs will continue as funding allows until the 18th quarter. ABCAs and cleanup plans will be completed after Phase IIs, beginning in the 5th quarter and continue through the 19th quarter.

iv. Task/Activity Lead: QEP with oversight from PADEP Project Director
v. Outputs: 21 Phase I ESAs; 10 ACM/LBP Surveys; 1 Generic QAPRP; 10 SAPs, HASPs, & Phase IIs; 5 ABCAs or Cleanup Plans
Task 4: Brownfield Areawide Planning & Site Reuse Plans
i. Task Implementation: It expected that several of the priority sites would also benefit from Site Reuse plans and/or Areawide Planning efforts. Where multiple sites are connected through location, infrastructure, economic, social, and environmental conditions, brownfield sites will benefit from an area-wide approach to planning for the assessment, cleanup, and reuse. The Project Team in collaboration with the Steering Committee for the Target Area will identify the need for site reuse and/or areawide planning for a Priority Site. The Project Team will compare potential land uses with the environmental impacts associated with properties and steps required to redevelop the property. The project team will host community-wide visioning sessions and create individual redevelopment concepts and reuse plans for the specific brownfields sites. In addition, the project team will complete market studies for potential reuses, as needed and appropriate.
ii. Identification of Additional Sites: The Project Team and Steering Committee may identify the need for an areawide brownfield plan to support redevelopment of a Priority Site. In this case, additional brownfield sites will be identified as part of the areawide planning effort. These additional sites will be considered for utilization of grant funding dependent on eligibility.
iii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Reuse planning anticipated to begin in the 4th quarter and continue through the 19th quarter.
iv. Task/Activity Lead: QEP with oversight from PADEP Project Director and PADEP Regional Office
v. Outputs: 5 Market Studies; 10 Visioning Sessions; 15 Site Concepts and Reuse Plans; 3 Areawide Plans

3.b. Cost Estimates (15 points) - The cost estimates are based on costs associated with similar activities conducted under existing PADEP technical assistance contracts and review of similar activities being conducted utilizing EPA Assessment grant funds. PADEP will not be utilizing this EPA Assessment grant funding for Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel or other non-site related expenses. These costs will be borne by PADEP through other funding sources in order to maximize the amount of funding to be utilized in the Target Areas and on the Priority Sites directly.

Task 1 – Project Management:

Personnel: Not Applicable; Fringe: Not Applicable; Indirect: Not Applicable; Travel: PADEP will continue to attend brownfield conferences but will not utilize this assessment grant funding to cover those costs.

Contractual: 60 Monthly Team Meetings (60x\$600 = \$36,000); 20 Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings (20x\$600 = \$12,000); 20 Quarterly ACRES Reports (20x\$600 = \$12,000); 5 Annual Reports (5 X \$600= \$3,000); 1 final summary report (\$3,000); property eligibility determinations for 5 Priority Sites and 15 additional sites (20 x \$400 = \$8,000) = \$74,000

Task 2 – Community Outreach:

Personnel: Not Applicable; Fringe: Not Applicable; Indirect: Not Applicable

Supplies: Refreshments at each meeting (160x\$200 = \$32,000); Meeting Materials, Press Releases, and other printed materials (160X\$250=\$40,000) = \$72,000

Contractual: 20 Steering Committee Meetings in each of the 3 Target Areas (60x\$1,200=\$72,000); 20 Quarterly Community Meeting in each of the 5 Priority Site Areas (100x\$1,200=\$120,000) = \$192,000

Task 3 – Site Assessments and Cleanup Planning:

Personnel: Not Applicable; Fringe: Not Applicable; Indirect: Not Applicable

Contractual: 21 Phase I ESAs (21x\$7,000 = \$147,000); 10 ACM & LBP Surveys (10x\$5,000) = \$50,000); 1 QAPRP (\$15,000); 10 SAPs (10x\$5,000 = \$50,000); 10 Phase II ESAs (10x\$70,000 = \$700,000); 5 ABCAs/Cleanup Plans (5x\$20,000 = \$100,000) = \$1,062,000

Task 4 – Task 4: Brownfield Areawide Planning & Site Reuse Plans:

Personnel: Not Applicable; Fringe: Not Applicable; Indirect: Not Applicable

Contractual: 3 Brownfield Area Plans incl. Market Analyses and Community Visioning Sessions (3x\$100,000 = \$300,000); 15 Site Reuse Plans (15x\$20,000 = \$300,000) = \$600,000

	Project Tasks				
	Project Management	Community Outreach	Site Assessments & Cleanup Planning	Areawide & Site Reuse Planning	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$72,000
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$74,000	\$192,000	\$1,062,000	\$600,000	\$1,928,000
Total Direct Costs	\$74,000	\$264,000	\$1,062,000	\$600,000	\$2,000,000

3.c. Measuring Environmental Results (5 points) - PADEP will hold monthly conference calls with the project team and quarterly meetings with the steering committee to review progress and direct project activities. When necessary, the Project Director will take corrective actions to ensure project goals continue to be met and the funds are expended in an efficient and timely manner. All outputs and outcomes (including but not limited to) the number of acres redeveloped, the increase in the tax base, the number of jobs created, assessment and cleanup dollars leveraged, and the amount of redevelopment dollars expended) resulting from the implementation of this program will be measured and communicated to the EPA as part of PADEP's quarterly ACRES information updates.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

4.a. Programmatic Capability

4.a.i. Organizational Capacity, a.ii. Organizational Structure, and a.iii. Key Staff:

PADEP is the environmental agency in the Commonwealth of PA and is responsible for administering laws and regulations related to air quality, water quality, water supply, and land protection. Since 1995, PADEP partners with our state and federal partners to actively assist communities with revitalization efforts through our brownfields program, which has included numerous 128(a) grants. John Gross, Environmental Group Manager, of the Land Recycling Program will serve as the Project Director. He has almost 30 years of experience in the Environmental Field, including three years in his current position. The group that he leads is responsible for the application and oversight of the EPA's 128a grant. He along with his team will be responsible for all grant management activities, including reviewing, approving, and submitting technical plans and reports; submitting required programmatic reports; tracking project progress and taking corrective actions, when needed; ensuring project goals are met; and, entering data in the ACRES database. Mr. Gross will along with the project team will provide oversight on all technical aspects of site assessment, review of sampling plans, supervision of sampling activities, and analysis of reports. Mr. Troy Conrad, Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Director, and Mr. Michael Maddigan, Program Manager of the Land Recycling Program, will supervise and support Mr. Gross to certify grant compliance, ensure timely expenditure of funds, and review financial accounting reports. The DEP Bureau of Fiscal Management (BFM) will support Mr. Gross with the financial management of the grant.

4.a.iv. Acquiring Additional Resources:

DEP will use one or several of the current contractors we have under contract via our General Technical Assistance Contracts (GTAC) or our Interim Response and Remediation Services Contracts (IRRSC) to perform the work described in this Assessment Grant proposal. These consultants were previously hired in accordance with Section 905 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code. This procedure allows for qualified small businesses, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses to bid on work to be performed. No additional resources are anticipated.

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.b.i. Has received an EPA Brownfields Grant:

DEP has received and utilized EPA Brownfield 128a State and Tribal Response Program Grants since 2004.

(1) Accomplishments & (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements:

The Section 128a Grants have been crucial in the development and maintenance of the Land Recycling Program (LRP) in PA including activities such as funding staff training opportunities, community outreach events, site assessments and brownfield inventory support to communities across PA. Since the beginning of 2004, 6300 sites have completed the LRP resulting in 50,000 acres of land restored and placed back into use. The Land Recycling Program has also hosted many statewide brownfields conference with the aid of the 128a funding to promote the program. Section 128a State and Tribal Response Program Grant– all progress reports were completed and submitted ahead of the deadlines; final closing report was submitted prior to the deadline and currently in review by the EPA; All of the funds were expended by the end of the grants performance period according to the revised workplan budget approved by EPA.

FY2023 EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes

PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) - Threshold Criteria Responses

1. Statement of Applicant Eligibility (Section III.B.1.)

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the agency in the U.S. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania responsible for protecting and preserving the land, air, water, and public health through enforcement of the state's environmental laws. It was created by Act 18 of 1995, which split the Department of Environmental Resources into the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. PADEP is therefore an eligible applicant for the USEPA Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribal Entities.

2. Community Involvement (Section III.B.2.)

PADEP recognizes the importance of community involvement in the brownfields prioritization and redevelopment process. PADEP will work with state leaders to establish a collaborative Community Advisory Committee in each target area to guide the project, lead community engagement and outreach activities at the local level, and assist in developing a sustainable brownfields redevelopment program for each target area and also the entire state. The PADEP Project Director will lead the community outreach efforts with support from the project team (QEP and PADEP staff). PADEP's Office of Environmental Justice will also be involved in Community Outreach in each Target Area. For each Target Area, PADEP will establish a local Community Advisory Committee comprised of local stakeholders, such as but not limited to those identified in Section 2.b of the Narrative. Specific community outreach activities will include creating a steering committee, holding community meetings in the Target Areas, and preparation of outreach materials. Steering committee meetings will occur approximately quarterly and may be in-person, virtual or hybrid. The project team will also conduct outreach in the Target Areas to community groups, property owners, and developers, as needed, but these community meetings will average 4 per year. Outreach materials will include articles, press releases, success stories, and web and social media updates. This plan will be used to help assure that all stakeholders are informed and engaged with this proposal. The tools utilized will include but not be limited to public meetings, public notices, social media outreach, e-mail lists, websites, brochures, fact sheets, news releases and media interviews.

3. Target Areas and Priority Sites (Sections III.B.3. and Section IV.D.4.)

PADEP has identified three Target Areas and five priority sites for initial utilization of these grant funds. In addition, PADEP will assist communities in the Target Areas with identifying at least 5 additional sites for assessment or reuse planning throughout the 5-year grant period. Section IV.D.4. of the PADEP Narrative Information Sheet lists each target area and the address of each priority site. Details of the target areas, priority sites and planned activities are provided in the Project Narrative.

4. Contractors and Named Subrecipients (Section III.B.4.)

Not Applicable - PADEP has not identified any subrecipients for these grants funds. PADEP has not named any contractors in the Project Narrative.