



R03-22-A-009

Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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1. Applicant Identification: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Land Protection and Revitalization Division
1111 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
2. Funding Requested: a. Community-wide Assessment Grant for States & Tribes
b.i. \$2,000,000
b.ii. No waiver requested
3. Location: Commonwealth of Virginia
Initial Target Areas: Town of Appalachia, Town of Blackstone, City of Emporia, and the southeastern neighborhood of Newport News
4. Target Area and Priority Site/Property Information
 - Town of Appalachia
Bullitt Mine Complex
Intersection of N. Inman St and US Hwy 23
Appalachia, VA 24216
 - Town of Blackstone
American Velvet Company
300 Church Street
Blackstone, VA 23824
 - City of Emporia
Southampton Textiles
520 Reese Street
Emporia, VA 23847

Virginia Dye
951 Mill Road
Emporia, VA 23847
 - Census Tract 301 (Southeast Neighborhood of Newport News)
Chase Packaging
1300 Marshall Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

FY22 EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes
Narrative Information Sheet

5. Contacts:

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6. Population: Jurisdiction (Virginia): 8,454,463
Initial Target Areas (Town of Appalachia, Town of Blackstone, City of Emporia, and Census Tract 301 in City of Newport News): 14,247

7. Other Factors Checklist Please identify which of the below items apply to your community/proposed project.

| Other Factors | Page # |
|--|---------------|
| Community population is 10,000 or less. | 6 |
| The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory. | |
| The priority brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land. | 1, 2 |
| 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). | 3 |
| The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain. | 3 |
| The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy. | |
| The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures. | 4 |
| 30% or more of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse planning activities for priority brownfield site(s) within the target area. | |
| The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2011 or later) or is closing. | |

8. Letter from the State Environmental Authority: Not applicable -- Applicant is the state environmental authority.

9. Releasing Copies of Applications: Not applicable

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

a. Target Area and Brownfields

i. Background and Description of Target Area:

The Commonwealth of Virginia stretches from the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Appalachian Mountains in the west; from the farm fields in the south to the suburban sprawl of Washington, DC, in the north. Virginia’s geographic diversity and size, nearly 42,775 square miles, have supported a wide variety of industries, including ports and shipbuilding, coal mining, tobacco processing, textile mills, and manufacturing. Many of these industries have flourished and, unfortunately, waned, leaving brownfields and Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in their wake. For example, the state’s textile industry contracted sharply in the late 1990s and early 2000s, shedding almost 20,000 textile jobs, a **76% decrease in textile industry employment**.¹ Similarly, coal production in Virginia peaked in 1990, and decreased rapidly after 2011 resulting in a **35% decrease in coal-related jobs since 2011**.² Mine closure has left behind nearly 100,000 acres of coal-mined lands, thousands of shaft mines, and hundreds of associated industrial sites. Tobacco was once a major cash crop in Virginia, but in the 1980s, tobacco demand began to precipitously decline, and the market for tobacco bottomed in 1998. In Virginia, the number of tobacco farms dropped from 4,184 in 2000 to 306 in 2017, a decrease of 93%. This drop in tobacco production led to the closure of supporting businesses, tobacco processors, warehouses, and equipment suppliers. Since 1998, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been working through its Brownfields Program to assist communities in revitalizing brownfield sites left behind by declining industry. For this project, DEQ has identified four initial Target Areas, which have significant brownfields sites impacting disadvantaged communities, but lack the resources or capacity to pursue brownfield funds.

Appalachia: The small town of Appalachia (not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA), located deep in the coalfields and mountains of Wise County, officially became a town in 1908. Railroads hauled people and supplies into town, and coal out. As coal was needed for steel and electricity, the town’s economy boomed. However, machines replaced many men in the mines; and, then demand significantly decreased. The loss of jobs created a mass exodus, which had a tragic domino effect. As the mines closed and families moved out, many businesses also closed. The “bust” left Appalachia a shell of its former self with many vacant, crumbling buildings, surrounded by mine-scarred lands. A significantly high percentage of the remaining population lives below poverty thresholds with high unemployment and low incomes (see tables in Sec.2a).

Blackstone: The small town of Blackstone sits in rural Nottoway County (not in an MSA) in the heart of Southside Virginia. First settled in the mid-18th century at the crossroads of several stagecoach and transportation routes, the town later thrived as a location for tobacco sales and shipment after the Southside Railroad (now Norfolk Southern) was built in the mid-19th century. The Town boomed during World War II, when Ft. Pickett was built outside of town as a training center. After the war, the town continued to prosper, and a textile mill was built along the railroad. In the 1990s, under Base Realignment and Closure, U.S. Army operations came to end, and Ft. Pickett became headquarters for the Virginia National Guard. In the late 1990s, the tobacco market collapsed, forcing the tobacco warehouses and operations to close. In the early 2000s, the textile mill finally succumbed to global pressures and also closed. Today, the town’s economy continues to rely upon Ft. Pickett, but that economy bypasses a large segment of the population that are mostly older, minority, have less educational attainment, and have lower incomes than the rest of the town (see tables in Sec.2a).

Emporia: The second smallest independent city in Virginia, Emporia (not in an MSA) has long been a transportation crossroads. A major north-south CSX railway line crosses a Norfolk Southern east-west line in the city; and, US Hwy 58 crosses east-west through the city, while I-95 and US Hwy 301 crosses north-south. The Meherrin River flows through the city and eventually empties into the Albemarle Sound. Located in a large cotton and tobacco growing region of the state, the city was

¹ US Census QWI Explorer, <http://qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov>, accessed October 2021.

² Ibid.

attractive to textile manufacturers due to the transportation network and river. Today, the textile mills, the foundry, and numerous downtown buildings are vacant and deteriorating, and the trains no longer stop in the city. With the exodus of jobs, the remaining population is characterized by low incomes, high minority percentages, less educational attainment, and high unemployment (see tables in Sec.2a).

Newport News: An independent city and part of the Hampton Roads MSA, Newport News is located on the north bank of the James River before it enters the Chesapeake Bay. In 1881, the city saw rapid development as the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was extended to bring coal from the mines in the west to the city's port for shipping worldwide. Within a few years, a shipyard was built, and the city began its industrial age with other industries and manufacturers arriving to take advantage of the skilled workforce and proximity to the port facilities. Recently, the city has focused redevelopment efforts on the southeastern neighborhood bordered on one side by coal piers and the other by a large, former manufacturing site. This neighborhood (Target Area) is home to a low income, high minority population (see Sec.2a tables) that continues to struggle with the surrounding industrial past and present.

After major market sector changes, manufacturing and mine closures, and economic downturns in the Target Areas, the brownfield sites left in their wake include the deteriorating remnants of textile mills, demolished manufacturing plants, mine-scarred lands, idle fields, and vacant warehouses blighting the landscape and raising concerns of potential contamination. However, the brownfields also present opportunities for the Target Area communities. Thus, DEQ will focus on these initial Target Areas and at least six more in this statewide project to identify, assess, plan, and facilitate the transformation of brownfield sites to help revitalize the Target Areas.

ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites:

Working with community stakeholders in each Target Area, the following sites were identified as initial priorities for this project, based on their potential for redevelopment and their impact on surrounding properties and the neighborhood:

Bullitt Mine Complex – In Appalachia, the remnants of the Bullitt Mine Complex lie vacant on 29 acres, bordering Looney Creek, which flows into the nearby Powell River. The complex once housed a tipple (structure used to load coal into railcars or trucks), processing plant, and six very large coal storage silos; but all structures and rail spurs have been removed. The site is not subject to the reclamation requirements or funding as other mines, as its post-mining land use is listed as industrial. Lingering environmental concerns related to the coal operations include arsenic and heavy metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and petroleum constituents in soils and groundwater. Contaminated runoff, sedimentation, and other impacts pose a threat to the water quality of the adjacent Looney Creek, which is already impacted by acid mine drainage from a nearby property.

American Velvet Company – In Blackstone, the former American Velvet Company's monstrous textile mill sits empty and deteriorating. In the past year, the 60,000-ft² building suffered a catastrophic roof collapse that destroyed the building's fire suppression system. The absentee owners are reluctant to fund any repairs; and, the Town is hesitant to take enforcement action or condemn the building, due to a lack of funds to repair or demolish it. The former textile operations, including the potential use of solvents and degreasers, dyeing and finishing chemicals, and petroleum, present concerns of potential contamination of heavy metals, asbestos-containing materials (ACM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and PAHs in site soils and groundwater. The nearly 7-acre property sits in the middle of town between two churches and the railroad. The nearest residence is only 300 feet away.

Southampton Textiles – In Emporia, the former Southampton Textiles Mill sits on 5 acres and consists of multiple interconnected buildings with over 63,000-ft² of floor space. The facility served as a dye house and was originally constructed in 1929 with additions taking place in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The mill continued operation until its closing in approximately 2007. The facility was then used by subsequent owners for automotive salvaging and automotive parts warehousing. The site is now vacant and in various stages of deterioration. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) identified several recognized environmental conditions (RECs) associated with the historical uses,

including concerns of heavy metals, solvents, VOC, SVOCs, petroleum, and ACM. Single-family residential homes are located directly across the street from the former mill.

Virginia Dye – In Emporia, the former Virginia Dye and Weldon Mills sit along the Meherrin River and Reservoir on over 28 acres. The historic Virginia Dye’s L-shaped building covers over 83,000-ft², but the building is significantly deteriorated with the roof missing in several areas and heavy vegetative growth both inside and out. Operations in this original mill building and its several additions included textile processing and dyeing. The newer Weldon Mills structure covers over 140,000-ft² and is mostly structurally sound. The building was used for cutting, sewing, and warehouse operations. Previous limited assessments and inspections identified typical concerns related to textile mills with dyeing operations – heavy metals, VOCs, SVOCs, and PAHs, plus ACM and Lead-Based Paint (LBP) due to the age of the structures.

Chase Packaging – In Newport News, the 27-acre Chase Packaging site was an industrial operation for over 70 years. Originally built in 1930, the site first built pleasure-crafts, but switched to build submarine patrol boats during WWII. In 1946, the site was sold to a new manufacturer to build powerboats and steel dump-truck bodies. Around 1950, a new company converted the site for paper bag and packaging products. The site continued in operation until the late 1990s. Since then, all above-ground structures and five underground storage tanks (USTs) have been removed. Previous assessments have identified petroleum hydrocarbon and heavy metal impacts, but additional assessment and cleanup planning is needed. The site is located on the James River in a federally designated floodplain and abuts single-family and multi-family residences.

Each Target Area identified 3-5 other sites, ranging in size from ½ to hundreds of acres, which are not described due to space constraints. DEQ will work with community stakeholders to identify and prioritize additional sites in the Target Areas; and, we will work with our Steering Committee to identify two new Target Areas per year beginning at the end of Year 2 for assessments in Years 3-5.

b. Revitalization of the Target Area

i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The 2020 Virginia General Assembly underscored the Commonwealth's commitment to environmental justice by establishing the *Environmental Justice Act*. The Act enhances DEQ’s mission to create greater equity and justice for all Virginians. Also in 2020, the Governor signed the *Virginia Clean Economy Act*, accelerating Virginia’s transition to clean energy and a resilient future, while also empowering the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice to review the impact of climate change and the resilience of vulnerable communities. To aid in this process, ADAPT Virginia created the Social Vulnerability Index, which maps communities based on their ability to adapt, recover, or respond to a natural hazard using demographic factors, such as age, income, race, language, or access to transportation. DEQ has already been working towards this goal through Brownfields Individualized Outreach (BIO) and events, where DEQ staff connect directly with communities to solve brownfield issues. Using the Index, DEQ can identify disadvantaged communities that do not currently have access to brownfield funds and target those area for BIO events. DEQ is taking the next step by forming a Steering Committee of state partners, including Departments of Energy, Health, Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Transportation (VDOT), Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), to directly support these disadvantaged communities (Target Areas) with identifying, assessing, and transforming problematic brownfield properties.

After these outreach efforts to partners across the Commonwealth, DEQ decided to first focus on the four Target Areas due to the existing community support to address brownfield sites, planning efforts already underway in the area, the redevelopment potential of the sites, and the impact those sites are currently having on the neighboring communities. Each of the Target Areas identified multiple potential sites and created a vision for their redevelopment, based on local needs, existing community-based strategies, and land use plans. In Appalachia, DEQ recently completed a Small Communities Grant that helped the region develop a Strategic Roadmap to capitalize on the growing outdoor recreational economy. The Bullitt Mine Complex was one of the high-priority sites identified

due to its acreage and proximity to the new trailhead for the Powell River Trail. The site has the potential to host several new businesses, including outfitters, short-stay cabins or campgrounds, provisioning store, or new quality, affordable housing. In Blackstone, Ft. Pickett is once again growing and regularly brings thousands to Blackstone each year for training activities, but the town is currently short on quality, affordable housing and lacks the lodging, restaurants, and entertainment establishments to capitalize on the influx of visitors. The American Velvet textile mill can be transformed into a mixed-use of apartments, boarding rooms, and retail and entertainment space in the center of town. In Emporia, the historic Southampton Textiles building is envisioned to be transformed into a brewery and restaurant. The original Virginia Dye building can be repurposed for quality, riverfront housing, while the newer warehouse building can be reused for new co-working office space and light industry or distribution. In Newport News, the Chase Packaging site has the greatest potential for a mixed-use redevelopment. With over 800 feet of sandy beachfront as the James River enters the Chesapeake Bay, the site's acreage offers ample space for new, energy-efficient, quality affordable housing, new office spaces, and recreational amenities.

Recent decades witnessed the closings of multiple manufacturing and mining operations across the Target Areas. The mine and textile mill closures resulted in the priority brownfield sites, which no longer interest industrial or manufacturing prospects due to their locations near neighborhoods and/or lack of access to major transportation routes. However, as each of the Target Area's economic and land use planning efforts have found, the sites offer the opportunity for a more compatible use for neighboring residential, commercial, and recreational properties. With funding from this brownfield project, plans for each of the targeted sites will be further refined and developed based on the findings of environmental assessments, community input, and data gathered through reuse planning efforts.

ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

The redevelopment of the priority properties has the potential to significantly attract public and private investment, create jobs, and improve the health and welfare of the Target Areas, particularly the **disadvantaged communities** (see Sec.2a) surrounding the priority sites, which have relatively high proportions of low-income, elderly, and minority individuals. By addressing the lingering questions regarding the potential environmental issues at the sites, the project will help facilitate their redevelopment, eliminate blight, and spur economic growth within the Target Areas. For example, the redevelopment of the Bullitt Mine Complex will bring investment and additional amenities and services into the community to cater to the outdoor recreational economy. These ecotourism businesses and amenities will make Appalachia more appealing to businesses and individuals interested in moving to the area. This measurable improvement to the area's quality of life will play a key role in filling the void left by the downsizing of the coal industry. In Blackstone, repurposing the American Velvet Company into a mixed-use development will lead to increased jobs and property values as well as a stronger tax base. The 60,000-ft² building could accommodate approximately 40 energy-efficient, 1,200-ft² apartments with the remaining square footage dedicated to retail and commercial uses. Data from Housing Forward Virginia predicts this level of investment will yield a short term estimated local economic growth of \$6.1 million with 94 short-term jobs created and an expected long-term economic growth of \$395,000 annually. The reuse would also create much-needed service industry jobs that do not require higher levels of education. Similarly, the residential portion of the reuse of Virginia Dye into 50, energy-efficient 1,500-ft² units is predicted to yield a short term estimated local economic growth of \$10.5 million with 163 short-term jobs created and an expected long-term economic growth of \$397,000 annually.³ The repurposing of the Southampton Textiles mill into a brewery and restaurant will require a \$1-2 million investment and will also create jobs in the Target Area. The Chase Packaging site could attract over \$50 million in investment to redevelop the site with a mixture of affordable housing, office space, and beachfront recreational amenities. In particular, the redevelopment of this site will have a significant impact on the surrounding residential property values, will create jobs in the communities, and provide additional recreational opportunities

³ <https://housingforwardva.org/toolkits/sourcebook/economic-impact-calculator-for-residential-renovation/>. Accessed November 2021.

for the residents of the Target Area.

c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

As a State Agency, DEQ is eligible for a number of federal grants, and our local government partners in the Target Areas are eligible for numerous state and federal grants and loans. The proposed redevelopments may also be eligible for various tax credits, rebates, and incentives that private partners and stakeholders can use. As many of these other funding sources are limited in scope, this project will help unlock the funds by clarifying the environmental issues. For additional environmental assessment needs, we will encourage our local government partners to request up to \$50,000 in funds from the Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund (VBAF). The VBAF grants require a 1:1 match, which has been an impediment to accessing these funds for these Target Areas in the past. However, the EPA Brownfield Grant can count as the match. Therefore, DEQ will seek to leverage the VBAF funds in order to accomplish more site assessments and reuse planning activities in the Target Areas.

If environmental cleanup is required, DEQ will encourage and support our Target Area partners to seek up to \$500,000 in a remediation grant from the VBAF also requiring the 1:1 match and/or an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant. Once this grant clears the environmental issues for redevelopment, DEQ and our Steering Committee partners are committed to pursuing the funding sources necessary to facilitate the reuse of the priority sites. With representatives of our state agencies on the Steering Committee, we help identify the most appropriate resources for both public and private redevelopments. For example, priority sites located in Enterprise Zone (*Southampton Textiles* and *Chase Packaging*), are eligible for Real Property Investment Grants (up to \$200,000) and Job Creation Grants (up to \$800 per job). A developer of *Southampton Textiles* or *Virginia Dye* can take advantage of historic tax credits or possibly DHCD and HUD affordable housing grants. The *Bullitt Mine Complex* may be able to access funding from Virginia Energy’s abandoned mine land program. Based on their capital investment, job creation potential, and other factors, the redevelopments may also be eligible to use cash grants from the Governor’s Opportunity Fund through VEDP, the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) offered through DHCD, or grants from the Virginia Tobacco Revitalization Commission.

ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure

As former industrial properties, the target sites have the needed infrastructure in place to serve the proposed redevelopments. Existing water, sewer, gas, and electricity services are of the needed size and capacity to be re-used for general service. Each site is located within a community and will reuse the existing street grids, transportation networks, and sidewalks (where available). No additional infrastructure needs are anticipated. If needed, our Steering Committee partners will seek to identify and secure the funds needed through federal or state sources, such as VDOT’s Economic Development Access (EDA) program, a state-funded incentive to assist localities in providing adequate road access to new and expanding manufacturing and processing companies.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

a. Community Need

i. The Community’s Need for Funding

With increasing challenges and needs but stagnant funding, DEQ is unable to directly assist the brownfield communities in the Target Areas, those who need it most, without additional grant funding. As the following table shows, the Target Areas are mostly low population areas with low incomes. The per capita income of Blackstone is 7% less than Virginia’s, but the **per capita incomes** of Appalachia, Emporia, and Newport News significantly lag Virginia’s -- **57%, 53%, and 58% less**, respectively. Similarly, the median household incomes of the Target Areas are 37-66% less than the state’s median. The poverty rates in the Target Areas are 50% more, double, or 4x that of Virginia’s. Median Home Values in the Target Areas are also 30-79% less than the state. With a tax base consisting of small, low-income populations, the Target Areas struggle to provide basic services and do not have the resources or capacity to apply for and manage brownfield grants themselves. This

project will enable DEQ to assist these communities with solving their brownfield challenges.

| Demographic Data (ACS 2019 5-year estimates) | Appalachia | Blackstone | Emporia | Newport News (Census Tract 301) | Virginia |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Total Population | 1,444 | 3,391 | 5,442 | 3,970 | 8,454,463 |
| % Minority | 1.9 | 57.5 | 72.0 | 68.8 | 32.4 |
| % Elderly (>65) | 17.6 | 17.7 | 16.8 | 5.4 | 15.0 |
| Median Household Income | \$25,554 | \$46,541 | \$27,063 | \$25,288 | \$74,222 |
| Per Capita Income | \$16,836 | \$36,668 | \$18,494 | \$16,308 | \$39,278 |
| % Unemployment | 14.9 | 2.3 | 23.4 | 11.8 | 4.6 |
| % All In Poverty | 41.8 | 15.6 | 27.0 | 43.1 | 10.6 |
| % Families with Children in Poverty | 56.3 | 12.7 | 34.6 | 55.8 | 11.2 |
| Median Home Value | \$58,700 | \$150,400 | \$116,800 | unavailable | \$273,100 |

ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

As the previous table shows, the Target Areas consist of sensitive populations, with relatively high proportions of low-income, elderly, and minority individuals. Furthermore, data from the EPA’s EJScreen Mapping tool (included in following table) further emphasizes that the populations within a ½-mile buffer around the priority sites tend to show higher proportions of multiple indicators: low income, people of color, residents with less than a high school education, and greater than age 64.

EJSCREEN Demographic and Environmental Indicators, ½-mile Buffer of Target Sites

| Demographic Indicators (percentile) | <i>Bullitt Mine (Appalachia)</i> | <i>American Velvet (Blackstone)</i> | <i>Southampton Textiles (Emporia)</i> | <i>Virginia Dye (Emporia)</i> | <i>Chase Packaging (Newport News)</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Low Income | 95 | 73 | 84 | 41 | 84 |
| People of Color | 20 | 73 | 92 | 75 | 92 |
| Less than High School Education | 93 | 84 | 76 | 76 | 76 |
| Greater than age 64 | 48 | 73 | 41 | 48 | 41 |
| Per Capita Income | \$17,694 | \$35,044 | \$17,213 | \$19,295 | \$13,469 |

EJSCREEN Mapper Tool accessed November 2021

These sensitive populations are more susceptible to the risks of exposure to environmental contamination, including the potential heavy metals, petroleum constituents, PAHs, VOCs, SVOCs, solvents, and ACM on the priority sites. The priority sites were once the economic engines and lifeblood of these neighborhoods; and, in many cases, generations of residents worked in the mills, plants, or mines. The blight of the sites today continues to take an emotional toll on many residents, while others seek to make nostalgic connections with the sites. Those trespassing on the site are putting their safety and themselves at risk of exposure. Furthermore, nearby residents, trespassers, and those living downstream are at risk of exposure from contamination on site, plumes migrating offsite, or contaminated runoff washed from the sites into the Powell River, Meherrin River, or the James River. In addition, the blighted sites impact the welfare of the target communities by depressing the adjacent values of homes, businesses, and property, as shown by the low median home values (see table) in the Target Areas. Assessments under this project will allow the Target Area communities to identify the actual risks on the sites and take actions to mitigate any potential threats. Left unmitigated, these properties will continue to negatively affect the communities that surround them by dampening property values and impacting the health and well-being of residents.

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

The Target Areas’ sensitive populations are particularly susceptible to chronic health impacts that the suspected contaminants may cause. Contaminants of concern associated with the former brownfields include heavy metals, petroleum constituents, PAHs, VOCs, SVOCs, solvents, and ACM, which are known to cause multiple negative health effects such as respiratory, neurological, reproductive, dermal, and gastrointestinal harm. As the following table shows, the Target Areas have elevated rates of asthma. Exposure to airborne particulates, such as wind-blown contaminated soils and asbestos, may contribute to and/or complicate asthma and other respiratory diseases in the target communities. The table also shows the target communities experience increased rates of cardiovascular diseases. Exposure to heavy metals, chlorinated solvents, and pesticides – suspected contaminants on the priority sites – are linked to increased rates of hypertension, coronary heart

disease, stroke, congestive heart failure and cardiovascular mortality.

| Percentage of Individuals experiencing Health Conditions ⁴ | Appalachia | Blackstone | Emporia | Newport News | Virginia |
|---|------------|------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| Congestive Heart Failure | 7.3 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Coronary Heart Disease | 5.8 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Stroke | 5.6 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) | 25.5 | 33.4 | 32.8 | 22.2 | 22.1 |
| Asthma | 10.9 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 10.5 | 10.3 |

Many of the residents of the Target Areas have lived their entire lives in the area, resulting in long-term potential exposure to carcinogens on the adjacent brownfields. Thus, the overall incidence rate for cancers and the age-adjusted mortality rate from cancers are significantly higher in most of the Target Areas than the state or US, as the following table shows. Data was unavailable at the town level, so county data is provided for Appalachia (Wise) and Blackstone (Nottoway). All four Target Areas have higher rates of Lung Cancers, which have been linked to PAHs. Plus, one or more of the Target Areas have increased incidences of Leukemia, linked to benzene found in petroleum; Colon Cancers, linked to pesticides; Kidney Cancers, also linked to PAHs; Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma linked to benzene and solvents; and Prostate Cancer linked to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and arsenic.

| National Cancer Institute State Cancer Profiles ⁵ | Wise County (Appalachia) | Nottoway Co. (Blackstone) | Emporia City | Newport News City | Virginia | U.S. |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|-------|
| Incidence Rate of Lung Cancers | 69.3 | 64.5 | 100.1 | 64.2 | 54.8 | 57.3 |
| Incidence Rate of Leukemia | 12.1 | 20.7 | n/a | 10.0 | 10.8 | 14.2 |
| Incidence Rate of Colon & Rectum Cancers | 34.9 | 48.6 | n/a | 37.6 | 35.0 | 38.0 |
| Incidence Rate of Kidney & Renal Pelvis Cancer | n/a | 19.6 | n/a | 14.8 | 15.5 | 17.1 |
| Incidence Rate of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma | 12.8 | 16.4 | n/a | 17.7 | 16.8 | 19.1 |
| Incidence Rate of Prostate Cancer | 45.7 | 130.4 | 133.2 | 124.4 | 98.0 | 106.2 |
| Incidence Rate of All Cancer Sites | 329.8 | 504.0 | 462.6 | 443.0 | 411.0 | 448.6 |
| Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate (All Cancers) | 198.8 | 181.0 | 139.6 | 185.7 | 152.4 | 152.4 |

Furthermore, two of the Target Areas experience a much greater rate of birth defects compared to the state⁶, and exposures to metals (Lead), pesticides, and solvents have been linked to birth defects.

| Birth Defects | Wise County | Nottoway County | Emporia | Newport News | Virginia |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| Rate per 10,000 live births | 343.60 | 641.45 | 559.36 | 327.32 | 493.89 |

The assessments funded by this grant and eventual remediation and redevelopment of these properties will reduce the targeted community’s exposure risk to the suspected contaminants and help lower the incidences of adverse health conditions.

(3) Promoting Environmental Justice

The residents of the Target Areas are located in close proximity to the industrial operations, with many homes even sharing a common property line or being located within only a few blocks of the target sites. In the past, the Target Areas disproportionately shared the negative environmental consequences of the mining or industrial operations, and now the low-income, elderly, minority communities (Sec.2.a.ii(1)) of the neighborhoods adjacent to the priority sites continue to disproportionately share the negative environmental legacy of the sites. According to the EPA’s EJScreen Mapping Tool, the communities in the Target Areas have elevated levels of particulate matter, ozone, cancer risk, respiratory hazard indices, a higher proximity to hazardous waste sites, and a greater risk of exposure to lead based paint, when compared to state and national percentiles. The residents of the Target Areas face the environmental justice challenges resulting from a time when government policies allowed mines, heavy industries, and residential properties to locate in close proximity. Thus, residents of the Target Areas are at more risk of exposure to wind-blown contaminants or contaminated site runoff. Site assessments and cleanup planning under this project will identify potential contaminants, migration pathways, and containment measures to help prevent offsite transport and exposure to contaminants.

⁴ <http://www.city-data.com>. Accessed October 2021

⁵ National Cancer Institute. <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/index.html>. Accessed October 2021.

⁶ Virginia Department of Health. Birth Defect Surveillance Data: 1989-1998.

EJSCREEN Demographic and Environmental Indicators, ½-mile Buffer of Target Sites

| Environmental Justice Indices (percentile) | <i>Bullitt Mine (Appalachia)</i> | <i>American Velvet (Blackstone)</i> | <i>Southampton Textiles (Emporia)</i> | <i>Virginia Dye (Emporia)</i> | <i>Chase Packaging (Newport News)</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) | 63 | 75 | 75 | 63 | 88 |
| Ozone | 64 | 76 | 76 | 63 | 91 |
| NATA Air Toxics Cancer Risk | 63 | 75 | 77 | 64 | 86 |
| NATA Respiratory Hazard Index | 63 | 75 | 77 | 64 | 85 |
| Lead Paint Indicator | 77 | 76 | 84 | 69 | 94 |
| Hazardous Waste Proximity | 61 | 66 | 81 | 74 | 85 |

EJSCREEN Mapper Tool accessed November 2021

b. Community Engagement

i. Project Involvement and ii. Project Roles

DEQ will establish a Steering Committee which will meet quarterly and be composed of staff 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. For each Target Area, DEQ will establish a local Community Advisory Committee comprised of local stakeholders, such as but not limited to (lack of space prevents listing all already identified), those listed in the following table.

Community Project Partners

| i. Partner Name | Target Area | Point of contact (name, email & phone) | ii. Specific role in the project |
|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Appalachian Voices | Appalachia | Adam Wells adam@appvoices.org (804) 240- 4372 | Non-profit group advocating a just transition to an equitable clean energy economy; will disseminate outreach materials and participate in site ID and reuse planning. |
| InvestSWVA | Appalachia | Will Payne will.payne@coalfieldllc.com (804) 393-8380 | A public-private org dedicated to attracting businesses and investment in the Appalachian region; will support site ID, reuse planning, and business and developer recruitment. |
| Downtown Blackstone, Inc. | Blackstone | Justin Sarafin manager@downtownblackstone.org (434) 242-3041 | Group with volunteers dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Blackstone; will assist with site identification, prioritization, outreach to property owners, and reuse planning. |
| Transition Solutions Enterprises | Blackstone | Eric Paul info@transitionsolutionsenterprises.org (804) 590-8515 | Non-profit group providing job training for those leaving prison system; will participate in reuse planning and business recruitment. |
| Emporia-Greenville Fuller Center for Housing | Emporia | Rev. George Pugh [REDACTED] (434) 336-1011 | Non-profit working on providing quality, affordable housing in the Emporia Target Area; will assist with site identification and reuse planning with a focus on needed affordable housing; will also help with community outreach and info dissemination. |
| Newport News Green Foundation | Newport News | Tami Fairholt tami@nngreen.com (757) 869-2156 | Non-profit preserving, transforming, and promoting green spaces throughout the city, and actively working on projects in southeastern Target Area; will help with community outreach and reuse planning. |

iii. Incorporating Community Input

Recognizing the importance of community engagement in the success of DEQ’s current brownfield project, the DEQ Project Director has already begun to engage local community stakeholders in the Target Areas to share details of the brownfields program and grant proposal process with particular emphasis on the importance of community input in brownfields redevelopment. DEQ will work closely with the Steering Committee, each locality, local stakeholders, and representatives from community groups to establish a collaborative Community Advisory Committee (CAC) 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 the Target Area. Members of the CAC will serve as advisors throughout the project activities in the Target Area, and DEQ will strive to build an inclusive CAC that brings their community vision and expertise in business, banking, construction, engineering, environmental services, health care, insurance, real estate, and economic development. The CAC will also work closely with the Steering Committee to

incorporate and develop revitalization priorities that have the potential to leverage a wide variety of resources. The broad goals of DEQ’s community outreach plan in each Target Area will include the following: (1) engaging diverse community stakeholders to understand their needs, concerns, and interests related to the brownfields program; (2) seeking authentic, broad-based community consensus for related actions that address these needs, concerns, and interests; and, (3) establishing long-term, positive relationships with affected communities. While project activities are ongoing in the Target Area, the CACs will meet at least on a quarterly basis either in-person or, if still needed or for those than cannot attend in-person, virtually through video-conferencing.

DEQ will provide regular community updates through press releases, articles, website content, and other social media outlets. With a focus on residents and business owners potentially affected by the project, CAC meetings will include project updates by community group members, DEQ staff and consultants regarding the program status and will provide an open forum for engagement and education. Accommodations will be made when non-English speaking communities are identified in the project area. These meetings will include several specific elements for communicating progress to the broader community including: (1) informing of program information and determining ongoing information needs; (2) listening and understanding community interests, priorities and concerns; (3) responding and creating a plan to address community needs; and, (4) following through with opportunities for participation in the program. Attendees will be asked to provide feedback and will be informed of ways they can continue to be involved and receive updates on future meetings and program developments. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we will offer the ability to attend and participate in meetings virtually as well as take measures to ensure the safety of those attending and participating in-person, such as limiting capacity but offering more meeting times so everyone can attend, physically distancing participants, and rotating attendees in and out of meetings to maximize participation. This hybrid approach will continue as long as necessary to continue to conduct effective community engagement activities, while also protecting the health and welfare of the Target Areas.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

i. Project Implementation

DEQ will use the requested funds to complete five main tasks:

| |
|---|
| Task 1: Project Management & Reporting |
| i. The DEQ Project Director with the support of the Department Head and Division Head 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 Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP). He 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, DEQ will complete EPA quarterly reports, annual reporting, and ACRES database entries/updates. DEQ staff will also attend national and regional training workshops relevant to brownfields. At the end of the project, DEQ with assistance from the QEP will draft a Final Performance Report to document accomplishments and lessons learned. |
| ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2027 |
| iii. Task/Activity Lead: DEQ Project Director |
| iv. Outputs: 60 Team Meetings; 20 Quarterlies; 5 Annual Reports; ACRES updates; 1 Final Report |
| Task 2: Community Outreach |
| i. The DEQ Project Director will lead the community outreach efforts with support from the project team (QEP and DEQ staff). Specific tasks include creating a steering committee, holding community meetings in the Target Areas, and preparation of outreach materials. Steering committee will occur approximately quarterly. 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. |
| ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: October 2022 – September 2027; steering committee meetings in 1 st month of each quarter; project fact sheets and press releases begin in 2 nd quarter and will continue through the end of the project; community meetings anticipated quarterly. |

| |
|--|
| iii. Task/Activity Lead: DEQ Project Director with support from Project Team |
| iv. Outputs: 20 Steering Committee Meetings; 20 community meetings; 10 articles, press releases, or success stories; 10 media updates |
| Task 3: Identification of Target Areas |
| i. DEQ will meet with the Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of sister state agencies, and the QEP to identify at least 6 additional target areas. Using data from EJScreen and the Social Vulnerability Index (ADAPT Virginia), 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. DEQ and QEP will meet with the prospective Target Areas to identify potential sites for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. The project team will identify at least 2 additional Target Areas for each of Years 3, 4, and 5. |
| ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Start at end of Year 2 to identify 2 Target Areas each Year 3, 4 & 5. |
| iii. Task/Activity Lead: DEQ Project Director with Steering Committee & QEP |
| iv. Outputs: 6 Additional Target Areas |
| Task 4: Site Assessments and Cleanup Planning |
| i. With DEQ 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 DEQ 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 (QAPP) 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 for high priority sites. |
| ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Generic QAPP will be submitted in the 1 st quarter. Phase I ESAs and ACM and LBP surveys will be initiated in the 2 nd quarter and continue as funding allows until the 17 th quarter. Surveys and Phase II ESAs will be initiated in the 3 rd quarter after approval of QAPP, and SAPs, HSPs, and Phase IIs will continue as funding allows until the 18 th quarter. ABCAs and cleanup plans will be completed after Phase IIs, beginning in the 5 th quarter and continue through the 19 th quarter. |
| iii. Task/Activity Lead: QEP with oversight from DEQ Project Director |
| iv. Outputs: 40 Phase I ESAs; 32 ACM/LBP Surveys; 1 Generic QAPP; 25 SAPs, HASPs, & Phase IIs; 20 ABCAs or Cleanup Plans |
| Task 5: Redevelopment Planning |
| i. The project team will compare potential land uses with the environmental impacts associated with properties and steps required to redevelop the property to develop reuse plans for sites. 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. Anticipated Project Schedule: Reuse planning anticipated to begin in the 4 th quarter and continue through the 19 th quarter. |
| iii. Task/Activity Lead: QEP with oversight from DEQ Project Director |
| iv. Outputs: 5 Market Studies; 10 Visioning Sessions; 10 Site Concepts and Reuse Plans |

b. Cost Estimates

The cost estimates are based on expenses incurred on the FY18 Brownfields Assessment Project.

Task 1 – Project Management:

Personnel: Avg of 3 hours of department head/month (3x60x\$55.61/hr = \$10,010); Avg of 6 hours of project director/month (6x60x\$51.16/hr = \$18,418); Avg of 3 hours of staff/month (3x60x\$45.03/hr = \$8,105); Approx 1 hour of division head/month (54.75 hrs x\$53.38/hr = \$2,923) = **\$39,456**

Fringe: Personnel x DEQ’s agency fringe rate (\$39,456 x 47%) = **\$18,545**

Indirect: Personnel x DEQ’s Federally-approved Indirect rate (\$39,456 x 28.5%) = **\$11,245**

Travel: 2 staff attend 5 regional workshops (2x5x\$500/person = \$5,000), 2 staff attend 2 National Conferences (2x2x\$2,500/person = \$10,000) = **\$15,000**

FY2022 EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes – Narrative

Contractual: 60 project team meetings (60x\$500 = \$30,000); 1 final summary report (\$5,000); 20 Quarterly Reports (20x\$500 = \$10,000); quarterly ACRES updates (20x\$350 = \$7,000) = **\$52,000**

Task 2 – Community Outreach:

Personnel: Avg of 18 hours of project director/quarter (18x20x\$51.16/hr = \$18,418); Avg of 9 hours of staff/quarter (9x20x\$45.03 = \$8,105) = **\$26,523**

Fringe: Personnel x DEQ’s agency fringe rate (\$26,523 x 47%) = **\$12,466**

Indirect: Personnel x DEQ’s Federally-approved Indirect rate (\$26,523 x 28.5%) = **\$7,559**

Contractual: 20 Steering Committee Meetings (20x\$750=\$15,000); 20 Target Area Meetings (20x\$2,000=\$40,000); 10 success stories and press releases (10x\$1,250=\$12,500); 10 media updates (10x\$500=\$5,000) = **\$72,500**

Task 3 – Target Area Identification:

Personnel: Avg of 40 hours of department head/year (40x3x\$55.61/hr = \$6,673); Avg of 60 hours of project director/year (60x3x\$51.16/hr = \$9,209); Avg of 40 hours of staff/year (40x3x\$45.03 = \$5,404) = **\$21,286**

Fringe: Personnel x DEQ’s agency fringe rate (\$21,286 x 47%) = **\$10,005**

Indirect: Personnel x DEQ’s Federally-approved Indirect rate (\$21,286 x 28.5%) = **\$6,067**

Contractual: 3 project team meetings (3x\$1,250 = \$3,750); 6 data analyses of Target Area (6x\$2,500 = \$15,000); 6 site inventories and meeting with target areas (6x\$4,500 = \$27,000) = **\$45,750**

Task 4 – Site Assessments and Cleanup Planning:

Personnel: Avg of 8 hours of project director/quarter (8x20x\$51.16/hr = \$8,186); Avg of 4 hours of staff/quarter (4x20x\$45.03/hr = \$3,603) = **\$11,789**

Fringe: Personnel x DEQ’s agency fringe rate (\$11,789 x 47%) = **\$5,541**

Indirect: Personnel x DEQ’s Federally-approved Indirect rate (\$11,789 x 28.5%) = **\$3,360**

Contractual: 40 Phase I ESAs (40x\$3,500 = \$140,000); 32 ACM & LBP Surveys (32x\$4,500 = \$144,000); 1 QAPP (\$3,000); 25 SAPs (25x\$3,500 = \$87,500); 25 HSPs (25x\$500 = \$12,500); 25 Phase II ESAs (25x\$39,915 = \$997,873); 20 ABCAs/Cleanup Plans (20x\$4,000 = \$80,000) = **\$1,464,873**

Task 5 – Redevelopment Planning:

Personnel: Avg of 15 hours of project director/quarter (15x16x\$51.16/hr = \$12,279); Avg of 7.5 hours of staff/quarter (7.5x16x\$45.03/hr = \$5,404) = **\$17,683**

Fringe: Personnel x DEQ’s agency fringe rate (\$17,683 x 47%) = **\$8,312**

Indirect: Personnel x DEQ’s Federally-approved Indirect rate (\$17,683 x 28.5%) = **\$5,040**

Contractual: 5 Market Analyses (5x\$4,000 = \$20,000); 10 Community Visioning Sessions (10x\$5,000 = \$50,000); 10 Site Reuse Plans (10x\$7,500 = \$75,000) = **\$145,000**

| Budget Categories | Project Tasks | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | PM | Comm. Out | Target Areas | Site Assess. | C&R Plan. | Total \$ |
| Personnel | \$39,456 | \$26,523 | \$21,286 | \$11,789 | \$17,683 | \$116,737 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$18,545 | \$12,466 | \$10,005 | \$5,541 | \$8,312 | \$54,869 |
| Travel | \$15,000 | | | | | \$15,000 |
| Contractual | \$52,000 | \$72,500 | \$45,750 | \$1,464,873 | \$145,000 | \$1,780,123 |
| Total Direct Costs | \$125,001 | \$111,489 | \$77,041 | \$1,482,203 | \$170,995 | \$1,966,729 |
| Total Indirect Costs | \$11,245 | \$7,559 | \$6,067 | \$3,360 | \$5,040 | \$33,271 |
| Total | \$136,246 | \$119,048 | \$83,108 | \$1,485,563 | \$176,035 | \$2,000,000 |

c. Measuring Environmental Results

DEQ 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. This may include redirecting contractors or procuring additional contractors or resources, as needed. All outputs (as noted in the tables above) 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 DEQ's quarterly progress reports and ACRES information updates. At the outset of the project, DEQ will develop a detailed project timeline that will incorporate all task expectations, project outputs, and staffing considerations to help guide project progress. This timeline will be shared with the project team, the steering committee, and the EPA project officer to aid in communicating the project vision.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

a. Programmatic Capability

i. Organizational Capacity, ii. Organizational Structure, and iii. Key Staff: DEQ is the environmental agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia and responsible for administering laws and regulations related to air quality, water quality, water supply, renewable energy, and land protection. Since 1998, DEQ 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 and two 104(k) grants. Vincent Maiden, Brownfields Coordinator, will again serve as the Project Director. He possesses over twenty years of environmental management and grant administration experience, including leading DEQ's current and previous successful EPA Brownfields Assessment Projects. He 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. Maiden will provide oversight on all technical aspects of site assessment, including oversight and direction of the QEP, review of sampling plans, supervision of sampling activities, and analysis of reports. Additional technical assistance is available from DEQ Project Managers who have backgrounds in engineering, environmental studies, and geology with extensive experience with site-specific brownfields and Voluntary Remediation Program assessments. Mr. Meade Anderson, Brownfields & Voluntary Remediation Program Manager (Department Head), and Mr. Chris Evans, Division Head, will supervise and support Mr. Maiden to certify grant compliance, ensure timely expenditure of funds, and review financial accounting reports. The DEQ Office of Financial Management (OFM) will support Mr. Maiden with the financial management of the grant. DEQ and OFM staff successfully manage millions of dollars in federal grants and state funds each year, including but not limited to federal grants for the 128(a) State Response Program.

iv. Acquiring Additional Resources: In 2018, in accordance with 2 CFR 200, EPA's rule at 2 CFR 1500, and State competitive procurement policies, DEQ procured a QEP to provide technical support on brownfield projects for a five-year period. Upon grant award, DEQ will negotiate a task order under this existing contract for the QEP to complete the technical aspects of this project. DEQ will re-compete the contract and may hire multiple firms to support the project if needed. Mr. Maiden, Project Director, will oversee the QEP to ensure all requirements are met within the five-year project duration.

b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

i. Has received an EPA Brownfields Grant: DEQ received a FY21 assessment brownfield grant. The project has just begun with a kickoff meeting held with the target area communities in November 2021. DEQ also received a FY18 assessment brownfield grant and completed 9 Phase I ESAs, 4 ACM & LBP Inspections, 4 Phase II ESAs, and 2 redevelopment plans. The project leveraged \$137,000 in VBAF funds for additional Phase II ESAs and cleanup activities at 4 sites. Three of the sites have secured funding for additional redevelopment activities, which are scheduled to begin soon. This funding includes a \$500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for revitalization of a historical theater key to the regional redevelopment strategy. All required reporting has been submitted per the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement and ACRES accurately reflects the outputs and outcomes of the grant (except the redevelopment funding which has not been expended yet). In anticipation of the National Brownfields Training Conference planned for December 2021, the project's period of performance was extended in order for the travel funds to be available. Since the cancellation, the funds are being redirected and the grant is 98% expended. All reporting documents were submitted as required, and the project met all grant terms and conditions.

Threshold Criteria

1. Applicant Eligibility

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is a governmental state entity created by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The agency was formed with the consolidation of the Council on the Environment, the Department of Air Pollution Control, the Department of Waste management, and the State Water Control Board on April 1, 1993.

2. Community Involvement

DEQ recognizes the importance of community involvement in the brownfields prioritization and redevelopment process. DEQ 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 DEQ Brownfields and Voluntary Remediation Programs have in place a comprehensive communications plan. This plan recognizes that it is critical to have robust and ongoing public outreach efforts for the brownfields program. 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.

Due to the challenging times of COVID-19, we will engage with our communities via an electronic platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meets, etc.) until which time it is feasible to resume face-to-face meetings when we will gather only with proper social distancing guidelines in place.

3. Named Contractors and Subrecipients

Not applicable. DEQ has not named a contractor in the narrative application. In 2018, DEQ issued a competitive request for qualifications for statewide brownfields consulting services. The procurement was conducted in accordance with requirements established in 2 CFR 200.320. DEQ received and evaluated six proposals, interviewed the top three ranking firms, and selected the firm ranked most qualified by the evaluation committee. The initial contract term was for one year with four option years. Each January, DEQ evaluates the performance of the contractor in order to determine whether or not to award the next option year. DEQ will conduct another competitive five-year procurement in 2023 or sooner if the option years are not awarded.

4. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

Not applicable. DEQ is applying for the FY22 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.