



#### IV.D. Narrative Information Sheet

1. Applicant Identification

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Organizational DUNS: 0938199980000  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

2. Funding Requested

- a. Assessment Grant Type: Community-Wide
- b. Federal Funds Requested
  - i. \$500,000
  - ii. N/A

3. Location: Near Reno, Washoe County, Nevada; near Carlin, Eureka County, Nevada (please note: Carlin is not located in Eureka County; however, Carlin is the city nearest one of the identified target areas located in rural Eureka County); near Mina, Mineral County, Nevada; near Millers, Esmeralda County, Nevada; and near Amargosa Valley, Nye County, Nevada.

4. Target Area and Priority Site/Property Information: The five target areas are as follows: “Southern Washoe County” (located within Census Tract 32031003203); “Northern Eureka County” (located within Census Tract 32011000100); “Southern Mineral County” (located within Census Tract 32021970800); “Northern Esmeralda County” (located within Census Tract 32009950100); and “Southern Nye County” (located within Census Tract 32023960300). Since there are no addresses associated with the four priority sites, the following coordinates in decimal degrees may be used: 39.368790, -119.782110 for Washoe County Abandoned Mine; 40.781089, -116.215388 for Eureka County Abandoned Mine 1; 40.790251, -116.189316 for Eureka County Abandoned Mine 2; and 38.136970, -117.459882 for Esmeralda County Abandoned Mine.

5. Contacts

a. Project Director

Rebecca Bodnar, Program Supervisor  
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Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
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b. Chief Executive

Greg Lovato, Administrator  
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Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
901 South Stewart Street Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

6. Population

Target areas:

- Southern Washoe County (Census Tract 32031003203): 4,552
- Northern Eureka County (Census Tract 32011000100): 1,987
- Southern Mineral County (Census Tract 32021970800): 1,756
- Northern Esmeralda County (Census Tract 32009950100): 969
- Southern Nye County (Census Tract 32023960300): 2,255

7. Other Factors Checklist

<b>Other Factors</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Community population is 10,000 or less.	4
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	N/A
The priority brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	1 – 2
The priority sites are adjacent to a body of water.	2
The priority sites are in federally designated flood plains.	N/A
The reuse of the priority sites will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	1 – 4
The reuse of the priority sites will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	N/A
30% or more of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 1.A., for priority sites within the target area.	N/A
The target areas are located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2011 or later) or is closing.	N/A

8. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority: N/A

9. Releasing Copies of Applications: N/A

**“Nevada Brownfields Renewable Energy Assessment Grant”  
U.S. EPA FY2022 Community-Wide Assessment Grant Narrative**

**1. Project Area Description and Revitalization Plans**

**a. Target Area and Brownfields**

**i. Background and Description of Target Area**

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Brownfields Program (NBP) is partnering with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to identify, assess, and promote solar projects through the reclamation of former mine lands. In 2017, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) established the Mining the Sun Initiative (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/nevada-west-virginia-solar-energy-former-mines/>). NBP and TNC have identified numerous sites throughout the state using certain solar farm siting criteria. Accordingly, brownfield sites targeted for assessment under this solicitation are in the form of abandoned mines, whose locations within the State of Nevada are suitable for solar farm siting.

Abandoned mines and mine-scarred lands are potential sources of exposure to contaminants like heavy metals and chemicals used in the extraction of ore, groundwater contamination, acid-mine drainage to surface waters, physical hazards, and blight and aesthetic nuisance. Prior to September 1989, businesses were not required to provide reclamation bonding before commencing mining activities in Nevada. Therefore, mines operating prior to 1989 often lack a viable owner/operator and/or funding or bonding. These circumstances make it difficult to resolve contamination problems to reduce human health risks and environmental hazards. The Nevada Abandoned Mining Land Program identified and completed preliminary screenings on over 200 parcels. The NBP identified several sites meeting the NBP and TNC criteria for a solar farm opportunity and narrowed the list to six sites for assessment.

The abandoned mines targeted for assessment under this grant proposal are in Northwestern, Northern, Central Western, and Southern Nevada. Since these abandoned mines are generally not located within the limits of towns or cities, for purposes of this grant, the target areas will be defined as the regions within the counties in which the sites are situated. Each of the target areas has potential impacts to nearby communities. The target areas identified in the Nevada Brownfields Renewable Energy Assessment Grant proposal have been grouped regionally as follows: Southern Washoe County with one site near Reno, NV hereinafter “Washoe County Abandoned Mine”; Northern Eureka County with two sites near Carlin, NV hereinafter “Eureka County Abandoned Mine 1” and “Eureka County Abandoned Mine 2”; Southern Mineral County with one site near Mina, NV hereinafter “Mineral County Abandoned Mine”; Northern Esmeralda County with one site near Millers, NV hereinafter “Esmeralda County Abandoned Mine”; and Southern Nye County with one site near Amargosa Valley, NV hereinafter “Nye County Abandoned Mine”. The total number of sites within all target areas is six; however, four of the sites encompass numerous contiguous parcels. The total number of parcels targeted for assessment is 39.

## **ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)**

Washoe County Abandoned Mine, Eureka County Abandoned Mine 1, Eureka County Abandoned Mine 2, and Esmeralda County Abandoned Mine have been identified as priority sites as they all meet the ideal criteria for solar farm siting. These criteria include:

- Site is located within a 2 mile buffer zone of an existing transmission line.
- Site is located within a 2 mile buffer zone of an existing substation.
- Site is generally located on a flat surface (on 0-3 degree slopes).
- Site is not located within sage-grouse habitat or a Wildlife Management Zone.
- Site is wholly or partially located on private-owned land or State-owned land.

Although the priority sites appear to be located geographically distant from each other, all of them lie within the ideal distance to existing transmission lines and substations (i.e., infrastructure).

The Nevada Abandoned Mining Lands Program's preliminary site screenings contained the following information about each site:

- Washoe County Abandoned Mine's primary hazards include lead and lead sulfide, iron sulfate, and sulfide minerals contamination; waste rock dumps; unstable surfaces; and a potential adit. The site is located near residential neighborhoods and schools. In addition, it is possible that since the site's initial operational period, runoff could have released contaminants-of-concern into two nearby creeks.
- Eureka County Abandoned Mine 1's potential contaminants-of-concern include copper and arsenic due to their relative abundance in the mined ore body. These contaminants-of-concern may be transported to a creek that runs approximately 1.25 miles east of the site.
- Eureka County Abandoned Mine 2 has potential contaminants-of-concern including lead, silver, and arsenic due to their relative abundance in the mined ore body. These contaminants-of-concern may be transported to a creek that runs adjacent east of the site.
- Esmeralda County Abandoned Mine has potential contaminants-of-concern including cyanide, silver, lead, copper, gold, and zinc. It is possible that these metals, along with cyanide, could have been historically released into the environment. Additionally, the site contains a 40-acre residual tailings pile, which has the potential to degrade surface water and shallow groundwater in the area. The groundwater is used for public drinking water supply at a nearby rest stop.

## **b. Revitalization of Target Area**

### **i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans**

Because this project aligns well with Nevada's ongoing efforts to achieve reliance on renewable energy, NDEP met with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and presented the assessment grant plans and proposed scope of work to a virtual meeting of regional economic development agencies and municipal planning staff from across the state. The proposed assessment work plan was received with support from several regional economic development agencies representatives.

Examples of Nevada's ongoing efforts to achieve reliance on renewable energy include the following:

- NV Energy, Nevada’s main energy producer and supplier, introduced their Clean Energy Transformation initiative: <https://www.nvenergy.com/alwaysongreenlink>. Greenlink Nevada is a transmission and renewable energy initiative with goals to transform Nevada’s clean energy landscape, create thousands of jobs, promote economic development, and position the state to achieve its statutory environmental and carbon reduction goals.
- Nevada State Legislature approved AB465, Expanded Solar Access Program, in 2019: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6889/Overview>. This bill enacts provisions for the implementation of an expanded solar access program by requiring electric utilities to offer access to solar energy in an equitable manner to low-income residential customers and certain nonresidential customers. The bill requires electric utilities to install 3 to 10 community solar projects per service territory.
- Governor Sisolak introduced Nevada’s Climate Initiative lead by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Governor’s Office of Energy (GOE): <https://climateaction.nv.gov/>. Nevada’s Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals are net-zero by 2050. This will be achieved through reliance on renewable energy.
- Nevada’s Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto sits on the Congressional Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and cosponsored the Clean Energy for America Act along with a series of incentives for clean energy and the promotion of new technologies in the private sector. In an effort to spur Nevada’s renewable energy development and production, Senator Cortez-Masto cosponsored legislation called the Electric CARS Act to encourage the use and development of electric vehicles, the GEO Act to promote the growth of geothermal energy, especially in the State of Nevada, and the Renewable Energy Extension Act to extend clean energy tax incentives and ensure continued deployment, growth, and innovation of green technologies.

## ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

- Identify existing issues and stimulate cleanup of potentially contaminated sites through assessment.
- Include renewable energy generation in Nevada’s energy production and assist in achieving the state’s goal of 50% of electrical energy from renewable sources distributed to Nevada customers by 2030. GOE oversees energy programs required through state statute. NDEP is consulting with GOE throughout the development and implementation of this program.
- Provide an alternative pathway for attaining state policy goals passed in the legislature to encourage and accelerate the development of new renewable energy projects for the economic, health, and environmental benefits provided to Nevadans. Nevada seeks to become a leading producer and consumer of clean and renewable energy with the goal of achieving 100% net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Maximize the benefits of portfolio energy systems, energy resiliency, and energy efficiency measures to Nevada residents through improved air quality, reduced water

use, a more diverse portfolio of resources for generating electricity, reduced fossil fuel consumption and more stable rates for retail customers of electric service.

- Create economic opportunities and revitalization through renewable energy projects across the state.

### **c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources**

#### **i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse**

NDEP receives annual funding from the US EPA Brownfields Program through the 128(a) State Response assistance to states, tribes, and territories. The NDEP consistently dedicates between 30% to 50% of the 128(a) funding annually to site-specific work. The NDEP 128(a) funding is generally used to leverage other 104(k) funded assessments within the state, filling in gaps to perform clean-up behind assessments to increase the likelihood of site redevelopment. NDEP also has a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund presently capitalized at \$800,000. This funding can be used to spur clean-up at a potential renewable energy site.

#### **ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure**

The existence and proximity of functioning infrastructure including transmission lines, substations, and access roads were key elements to the identification of all sites in the target areas proposed in this grant (i.e., sites with high solar farm development potential). Thus, site reuse will rely on this existing infrastructure.

## **2. Community Need and Community Engagement**

### **a. Community Need**

#### **i. The Community's Need for Funding**

There are limited resources in many rural communities, including the majority of the identified target areas, that support a vast area with a very small tax base. Virtually all the identified target areas do not have the capacity to draw on other initial sources of funding because they have a small population and/or are low-income.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), Nye County Abandoned Mine is located within a low-income census tract and Mineral County Abandoned Mine is located within a low-income and low population census tract. Eureka County Abandoned Mine 1, Eureka County Abandoned Mine 2, and Esmeralda County Abandoned Mine are all situated within low population census tracts.

The population for all five target areas is as follows: 4,552 for Southern Washoe County (Census Tract 32031003203); 1,987 for Northern Eureka County (Census Tract 32011000100); 1,756 for Southern Mineral County (Census Tract 32021970800); 969 for Northern Esmeralda County (Census Tract 32009950100); and 2,255 for Southern Nye County (Census Tract 32023960300).

Moreover, the census tract in which Mineral County Abandoned Mine resides has a poverty rate of 35.19% and is located in a High Migration Rural County. Nye County Abandoned Mine's census tract has a poverty rate of 29.67%. These rates are significantly higher than the national rate of 13.4%.

#### **ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations**

##### **(1) Health and Welfare of Sensitive Populations**

Due to their abandoned status, mine shaft openings, uneven surfaces, and associated contaminants-of-concern, all sites identified as a target of funding for this project present public health hazards to sensitive populations, including children, pregnant women, and the elderly. For instance, the tailings pile at the Esmeralda

County Abandoned Mine may degrade the groundwater directly beneath the site, which is used by visitors at a nearby rest stop as a source of drinking water. In Southern Washoe County, where residential neighborhoods and schools are located in proximity to the target site, residents have complained about potential direct exposure to air-borne deposition of lead as a result of Washoe County Abandoned Mine’s presence in the area.

In rural communities such as Northern Eureka County, Southern Mineral County, Northern Esmeralda County, and Southern Nye County, the availability of critical goods and resources is scarce. This makes all sensitive populations in those target areas especially vulnerable to health conditions and any other hazards associated with exposure to contaminants at abandoned mines.

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

According to County Health Rankings, a program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute that measures the health of all counties in the nation, Mineral, Esmeralda, and Nye Counties are ranked some of the least healthy counties in Nevada. According to the same source, the percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health is 19% for Mineral County and 22% for Esmeralda County; these percentages are higher than that of adults reporting fair or poor health in Nevada overall (17%).

**(3) Promoting Environmental Justice**

According to EPA’s EJ Screen, Southern Mineral County is part of a block group (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau) with a 65% demographic index. Out of the entire population in this block group, 68% are people of color, 61% are low-income, 11% have less than a high school education, 5% are under the age of 5 and 17% are over the age of 64. This demographic index percentage lies in the 86 national percentile.

Northern Esmeralda County is part of a block group with a 37% demographic index. In this block group, 32% of the population are people of color, 42% are low-income, 9% are linguistically isolated, 15% have less than a high school education, 3% are under the age of 5 and 28% are over the age of 64. This demographic index percentage lies in the 60 national percentile.

Southern Nye County is part of a block group with a 55% demographic index, which lies in the 78 national percentile. In terms of the overall population in this block, 62% are people of color, 49% are low income, 13% are linguistically isolated, 43% have less than a high school education, 10% are under the age of 5 and 17% are over the age of 64.

**b. Community Engagement**

**i. Project Involvement**

Name of Organization	Point of Contact	Specific Involvement in the Project or Assistance Provided
Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)	Sheryl Gonzales <a href="mailto:sgonzales@wndd.org">sgonzales@wndd.org</a> (775) 473-6753	An Economic Development District representing 5 counties and 7 cities in Western Nevada, including Washoe and Mineral Counties. WNDD will spearhead official involvement of grant activities in WNDD jurisdictions and serve as liaison facilitating grant outreach activities.

Northern Nevada Development Authority (NDA)	Amy Miller <a href="mailto:amy.miller@nda.org">amy.miller@nda.org</a> (775) 400-0619	A Regional Development Authority representing 5 counties in the Sierra Region of Nevada, including Mineral County. NDA will facilitate grant outreach activities with municipal and community leaders.
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**ii. Project Roles**

Please see table above in Section 2.b.i.

**iii. Incorporating Community Input**

All activities under this grant will be performed in accordance with state and federal COVID-19 pandemic mandates. All outreach will be performed virtually in accordance with the NDEP Virtual Meeting Guidance. NDEP has the capability and experience to host virtual meetings. If restrictions are lifted within the life of this grant, in person meetings will be initiated. The Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) will have a COVID-19 addendum in their safety plan for onsite assessments. This addendum will be reviewed and approved by NDEP before work is performed.

Community involvement will be solicited and incorporated at several key decision points:

- A kick-off webinar announcing the project and to inform communities of the project work plan and goals accompanied by webpage and social media blasts.
- A quarterly webinar series featuring keynote speakers addressing community topics and concerns around renewable energy from the federal to the local level. Keynote speakers are slated to include: Senator Jacky Rosen and Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto to address concerns at the federal level; the GOE leadership, DCNR leadership, and NV Energy (key electricity provider in Nevada) to address concerns at the state level; and local economic development agency representatives to address concerns at the local level.
- Solicitation of stakeholders through the Nevada Brownfields Program (NBP), TNC, GOED, and GOE’s listserv (which includes the Nevada League of Cities and Nevada Association of Counties).
- Participation, including presentations, at conferences promoting the grant. Conferences may include Nevada League of Cities, Nevada Association of Counties, National Brownfields Conference, and renewable energy conferences.
- Sharing sites identified for assessment with community planners and nearby residents through scheduled meetings such as planning or city council meetings. NDEP will collaborate with communities by sharing and explaining why these sites are most desirable for renewable energy development and how proposed redevelopment of candidate sites will be consistent with these community-driven plans. Positive impacts of redevelopment will also be described in these outreach efforts and community questions and concerns will be solicited.
- Engagement with communities and decision makers on the findings of the Phase I and/or Phase II ESAs. If an ABCA is performed, the findings and recommendations of the study will be shared with the community.



### 3. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

#### a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

ii. Project Schedule	i. Project Implementation	iii. Activity Lead	iv. Output
1 <sup>st</sup> year	Outreach to target areas to discuss grant's scope of work	NDEP and QEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Quarterly webinar series to discuss renewable energy topics and concerns	NDEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Contact site owners	QEP	Site access agreements
	Assessment activities scoping	NDEP and QEP	List of sites to be assessed in chronological order; assessment schedule
	Initiate Phase I ESAs	QEP	Phase I ESA reports
	Quarterly EPA meetings	NDEP, QEP, and EPA	Outcomes in quarterly report
	Mandatory reporting	NDEP	Submit required EPA reporting
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Complete Phase I ESAs	QEP	Phase I ESA reports
	Initiate Phase II ESAs	QEP	Phase II ESA reports
	Outreach to target areas regarding status of projects (e.g., during scheduled municipal meetings)	QEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Quarterly webinar series to discuss renewable energy topics and concerns	NDEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Quarterly EPA meetings	NDEP, QEP, and EPA	Outcomes in quarterly report
	Mandatory reporting	NDEP	Submit required EPA reporting
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Complete Phase II ESAs	QEP	Phase II ESA reports
	Contact site owners for ABCA consideration	QEP	Nominate top sites for ABCA (if necessary)
	Perform ABCA(s)	QEP	ABCA report(s)
	Outreach to target areas regarding status of projects (e.g., during scheduled municipal meetings)	QEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Quarterly webinar series to discuss renewable energy topics and concerns	NDEP	Presentation content and preparation; community engagement
	Grant project close-out	NDEP	Finalize outstanding grant tasks and reports
	Quarterly EPA meetings	NDEP, QEP, and EPA	Outcomes in quarterly report
	Mandatory reporting	NDEP	Submit required EPA reporting

**b. Cost Estimates**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Development</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	NDEP staff, grant and project oversight, contract management, deliverable review, research, meetings, etc.	Branch Supervisor= 50 hrs @ \$41.98/hr Environmental Scientist= 310 hrs @ \$31.92/hr Staff Engineer= 75 hrs @ \$40.09/hr	Branch Supervisor= \$2,099 Environmental Scientist= \$9,895 Staff Engineer= \$3,006	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>		*Fringe benefit rate at 35.53%	0.3553 X \$15,000	\$ 5,330.00
<b>Travel</b>	On-site visits, conferences, and trainings			\$ 300.00
<b>Contractual</b>	First year: Contracted outreach support	Creation and production of outreach materials, postage, virtual meeting services, etc.	\$ 12,247.00	\$ 12,247.00
	First year: Phase I ESAs	39 Phase I ESAs @ \$5,000 each	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 463,000.00
	Second year: Phase II ESAs	12 Phase II ESAs @ \$20,000 each	\$ 240,000.00	
	Third year: ABCA studies	2 ABCA studies @ \$14,000 each	\$ 28,000.00	
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>				\$ 495,877.00
<b>Indirect Costs</b>		*Agreed rate of 20.28%		\$ 4,123.00
<b>Total Budget</b>				<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>
<b>*Fringe benefit rate and IDC based on SFY2022 rates</b>				

### **c. Measuring Environmental Results**

The potential health and public safety concerns created by abandoned mine sites is well-documented by public health and safety agencies. Abandoned mines and mine-scarred lands can lead to potential exposure of contaminants like heavy metals and chemicals used in the ore extraction causing groundwater contamination, acid-mine drainage to surface waters, physical hazards, blight, and aesthetic nuisance. The assessment of these potential issues can promote remediation and restoration on their pathway to brownfield redevelopment. In addition, redevelopment of these brownfields is likely to result in the reuse and restoration of existing infrastructure that has gone to disuse and disrepair following mine closure. Restoration of existing roads and powerlines results in the reduction in virgin materials used to construct new facilities and save undeveloped land as greenspace.

Environmental results will be measured in the number of sites assessed, the potential contamination issues recognized, and ultimately, the number of brownfields and abandoned mine lands reused and redeveloped.

## **4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance**

### **a. Programmatic Capability**

#### **i. Organizational Capacity**

NDEP is the statutory agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of federal and state environmental laws and regulations in Nevada. This grant will be managed within the Bureau of Corrective Actions' Superfund Branch which includes the 128(a) Brownfields Program (NBP). The Bureau of Corrective Actions currently manages six federal grant awards from the U.S. EPA along with a Department of Defense grant, for a combined award value of \$2.7 Million in FY2021. NBP staff are experienced in implementing a successful brownfields program including community outreach and engagement, grant and contract management, site inventory, site assessment and cleanup. The Bureau of Administrative Services oversees and provides all budgetary and fiscal planning and management tasks for NDEP. They will manage receipt and accounting for all funds received under this grant.

#### **ii. Organizational Structure**

Ruben Ramos-Avina is the NBP Coordinator. He will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the grant and deliverables. David Friedman is a staff engineer with NDEP. He will be responsible for the technical oversight and review of all reports, maps, documents, and metadata associated with the grant. Rebecca Bodnar is the supervisor for Superfund Branch and the NBP within NDEP and the grant manager. She will be responsible for grant reporting requirements and overall satisfactory completion of the community-wide assessment grant.

#### **iii. Description of Key Staff**

Ruben Ramos-Avina has almost five years of experience as a brownfields program coordinator. Previously, Mr. Ramos-Avina was the Brownfields Program Coordinator for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. David Friedman is currently the Nevada Superfund Program Coordinator. Previously, Mr. Friedman was the Nevada Brownfields Program Coordinator for 8 years. Rebecca Bodnar has supervised the Nevada Brownfields and Superfund Programs and has managed various EPA grants since 2015.

#### **iv. Acquiring Additional Resources**

NDEP will utilize the services of a QEP to complete the Phase I and Phase II ESAs and any ABCA studies necessary. All procurement will be in compliance with 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Parts 31.36, Nevada statutory and regulatory requirements and applicable State Purchasing, DCNR, and NDEP policies.

#### **b. Past Performance and Accomplishments**

##### **i. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant**

###### **(1) Accomplishments**

The NBP was formed in 1999 within the NDEP with funding from the U.S. EPA to create a Revolving Loan Fund to address cleanup at brownfields sites in the state. Beginning with this pilot program and subsequent Section 128(a) grant funding in 2002, NBP has aptly managed all grant revenues identifying approximately 1,700 sites as potential brownfields and providing the resources and oversight for the assessment and/or cleanup of 90 sites throughout the state. To date, NDEP has funded assessments at 84 sites and cleanup of 24 sites valued at \$4.1 million. NBP hosted the Nevada Brownfields Conference in 2005 in Reno, NV with attendees from across the state and neighboring California cities and counties. NBP annually conducts workshops at statewide and regional conferences and gives numerous presentations to municipal boards, officials, and community groups. NBP has drafted and proposed state regulation creating the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund promulgated in 2003 and was awarded a Brownfields RLF grant by EPA, successfully funding clean-up for 11 acres of land acquired by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony repaid the loan in full; this funding was subsequently used to help Churchill County, NV monitor groundwater contamination at the location of its new senior center and remove friable asbestos at a community performing arts center in Carson City, NV.

###### **(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements**

NBP has a strong record of compliance and satisfactory completion of the terms and conditions of all cooperative agreements it has entered with US EPA, including the existing cooperative agreement (RP-99T41601). This includes all mandatory reporting requirements of quarterly reports, ACRES data entries, federal fiscal (40 CFR Parts 30-31) and cross-cutting requirements (e.g., Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act) and Quality Assurance Program Plan review and approval.

NBP did return approximately \$1,076,237 to US EPA at close-out of a RLF grant totaling \$1,837,556 (cooperative agreement BF-96941701). The unobligated funding was intended for clean-up of asbestos-contaminated soil created from the demolition of civilian housing built in Hawthorne, NV as part of the Hawthorne Army Depot. Issues pertaining to community agreement and authorization resulted in long delays of project approval ultimately resulting in the project's termination prior to commencement. The balance of funding was loaned to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to clean-up three parcels that were developed by the Indian Colony into the Three Nations Plaza.



### III.B. Threshold Criteria for Assessment Grants

1. Applicant Eligibility

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is a state agency and is thus eligible for funding under this solicitation.

2. Community Involvement

All activities under this grant will be performed in accordance with state and federal COVID-19 pandemic mandates. All outreach will be performed virtually in accordance with the NDEP Virtual Meeting Guidance. NDEP has the capability and experience to host virtual meetings. If restrictions are lifted within the life of this grant, in person meetings will be initiated. The Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) will have a COVID-19 addendum in their safety plan for onsite assessments. This addendum will be reviewed and approved by NDEP before work is performed.

Community involvement will be solicited and incorporated at several key decision points:

- A kick-off webinar announcing the project and to inform communities of the project work plan and goals accompanied by webpage and social media blasts.
- A quarterly webinar series featuring keynote speakers addressing community topics and concerns around renewable energy from the federal to the local level. Keynote speakers are slated to include Senator Jacky Rosen and Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto to address concerns at the federal level, the GOE leadership, DCNR leadership and NV Energy (key electricity provider in Nevada) to address concerns at the state level and local economic development agency representatives to address concerns at the local level.
- Solicitation of stakeholders through the Nevada Brownfields Program (NBP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), and Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) listservs (which includes the Nevada League of Cities and Nevada Association of Counties).
- Participation, including presentations, at conferences promoting the grant. Conferences may include Nevada League of Cities, Nevada Association of Counties, National Brownfields Conference, and renewable energy conferences.
- Sharing sites identified for assessment with community planners and nearby residents through scheduled meetings such as planning or city council meetings. NDEP will collaborate with communities by sharing and explaining why these sites are most desirable for renewable energy development and how proposed redevelopment of candidate sites will be consistent with these community-driven plans. Positive impacts of redevelopment will also be described in these outreach efforts and community questions and concerns will be solicited.

- Engagement with communities and decision makers on the findings of the Phase I and/or Phase II ESAs. If an ABCA is performed, the findings and recommendations of the study will be shared with the community.

Economic development organizations, such as the Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) and Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA), will help facilitate grant outreach activities, including planning, implementation, and other brownfield assessment activities, for their respective jurisdictions.

3. Named Contractors and Subrecipients

- Contractors: N/A
- Subrecipients: N/A

4. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

NDEP does not currently have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant.