D H E C
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C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner
Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

December 2, 2008

Mr. Horace Alexander
Southeast Anderson Community Task Force
117 George B. Timmerman Street
Anderson, South Carolina 29621

Re: Electric City Community Council
City of Anderson Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Alexander:

In April 2008, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) received a $200,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to inventory and assess former petroleum storage sites in Anderson. The project's goal is to identify and assess potential petroleum contamination so that it does not impede the redevelopment of a property. The study will emphasize the former mill villages. DHEC will manage and administer the project.

The City of Anderson is partnering with DHEC in the project and has identified you as a member of the Electric City Community Council. Meetings with community organizations to brief them on the project and request their assistance in identifying sites will begin in early 2009. I am planning to address the Electric City Community Council at its next meeting in February 2009.

I will be briefing the Anderson City Council about the project at its December 8, 2008 meeting, and a Website has been created to provide information on the project and upcoming activities (www.scdhec.net/environment/lwm/html/ust_anderson_brownfield.htm). An information sheet for the project is enclosed.

Community input is a key component of the project. Therefore, a draft Public Involvement Plan has been developed. Citizens can provide comments on the plan until December 31, 2008. A copy of the Public Notice for the plan is enclosed.

I am looking forward to working with you and your organization on this project. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments at (803) 896-6848 or via e-mail at berenbmk@dhec.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Berenbrok

Mark Berenbrok, Petroleum Brownfields Coordinator
Division of Land Revitalization
Bureau of Land and Waste Management

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Enc: Information Sheet
Public Notice

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South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

DIVISION OF LAND REVITALIZATION
BUREAU OF LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone (803) 896-4220 Fax (803) 896-4292
November 20, 2008

Public Notice

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is requesting your comments concerning the Public Involvement Plan for the City of Anderson Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Project.

In April 2008, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) was selected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to receive a $200,000 petroleum brownfields assessment grant for the City of Anderson. The funds will be used to inventory and assess former petroleum storage sites. The goal of the project is to identify, assess, and address potential petroleum contamination so that it does not impede the redevelopment of a property. The Bureau of Land and Waste Management of DHEC is administering the project and the grant. The City of Anderson is partnering with DHEC in the project.

A draft Public Involvement Plan (dated October 29, 2008) is located in the project file at the reference desk of the Anderson County Public Library at 300 North McDuffie Street in Anderson. The draft Public Involvement Plan (document #15) can also be found online at the project website at www.scdhec.net/environment/lwm/html/ust_anderson_brownfield.htm.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Public Involvement Plan until December 31, 2008. Questions or comments may be directed to Mark Berenbrok, email berenbmk@dhec.sc.gov or 803-896-6848. Written comments should be directed to Mark Berenbrok, DHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

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PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

BUREAU OF LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone (803) 896-7957 Fax (803) 896-6245
November 3, 2008

The City of Anderson Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Project

Introduction

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. A brownfields can be as large such as a closed textile mill or as small as the vacant service station on the corner. Regardless of their size, the stigma of a brownfields site can extend beyond its boundaries and impact the stability of adjacent properties or even entire neighborhoods. Brownfields threaten public health and drinking water supplies, attract graffiti, weeds, or even neighborhood crime, thwart economic renewal, and create eyesores.

Petroleum brownfields are sites where the primary contaminant of concern is petroleum. The majority of petroleum brownfields are former gas stations. In rural areas a petroleum brownfields may also be a country store or a farm. Gas stations and underground storage tank systems began to appear on the American landscape in the early 1900s. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that petroleum brownfields face unique redevelopment challenges. There are many of them, the sites are normally small, and liability concerns about environmental conditions and the unknown status of underground storage tanks can present significant barriers to redevelopment.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.

Petroleum Brownfields in Anderson

In January 2002, the President signed the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, which authorizes up to $250 million in funds annually for brownfields grants. The 2002 law expanded the definition of what's considered a brownfields, so communities may now focus on mine-scarred lands or sites contaminated by petroleum or the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs.

In April 2008, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) was selected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to receive

a $200,000 petroleum brownfields assessment grant for the City of Anderson. The funds will be used to inventory and assess former petroleum storage sites. The goal of the project is to identify, assess, and address potential petroleum contamination so that it does not impede the redevelopment of a property. The Bureau of Land and Waste Management of DHEC is administering the project and the grant. The City of Anderson is partnering with DHEC in the project.

The Plan

All properties in the City are eligible to participate; however, properties located in the former mill villages or areas struggling with redevelopment will be given priority.

The project objectives are:

1. Identify petroleum brownfields sites through community meetings, existing DHEC lists, and historical sources;
2. Prioritize sites for evaluation based upon the City's and community's input;
3. Contact property owners at eligible sites and attempt to obtain access to the properties;
4. Perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment if appropriate. A Phase I environmental site assessment is a historical review of the site. It does not include taking samples for analysis;
5. Locate any underground storage tanks (USTs) or aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) at the site;
6. Perform a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment to determine if petroleum contamination is present. This work includes taking samples for analysis;
7. If petroleum contamination is present and it is appropriate, continue the assessment of the site;
8. Compile a list of known petroleum sites and the status of petroleum-related releases to be provided to the City to aid in redevelopment efforts.

The project's goal is to identify, assess, and address potential petroleum contamination so that it does not impede the redevelopment of the property. Redevelopment of a property can begin while assessment is ongoing.

The information file for the City of Anderson Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Project can be found at the reference desk of the Anderson County Public Library at 300 North McDuffie Street in Anderson. It will be updated regularly and includes correspondence, reports and other documents. The same information can be found online at www.scdhec.net/environment/lwm/html/ust_anderson_brownfield.htm.

Project Contact

The DHEC project manager is Mark Berenbrok. You may contact him at 803-896-6848 or via e-mail at berenbmk@dhec.sc.gov.

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