



# RR REPORT

Important Updates from the WDNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

June 6, 2011

## Funding For Meth Lab Cleanups Could Evaporate Good News: Other Federal Dollars Still Available

The existence of methamphetamine or “meth” labs across the country continues to not only be an illegal and dangerous problem for communities and law enforcement officials, the labs are also full of toxic chemicals, which can pose a public and environmental health hazard. According to 2010 law enforcement data, there were more than 10,000 clandestine meth lab incidents or seizures nationally, including 24 in Wisconsin.\*

When a meth lab is discovered/seized, police, fire and law enforcement officials have brought in licensed contractors to remove and properly dispose of bulk chemicals and waste. Law enforcement staff also work with city and local health departments to ensure property owners clean up all unsafe residues of drugs and chemicals, which allows buildings and land to be safely reused.

In 1998, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) began paying for the cleanup of meth labs via a \$5 million federal appropriation. Since that time, the program has grown to about \$20 million annually and, for the most part, that funding remained stable the last 11 years.

However, the current federal budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 has cut all funding to DEA for meth lab cleanups. Without these dollars, the cost of cleanups will fall on local communities, which may already be struggling with tight fiscal restraints.

### Public Health & Environmental Concerns Regarding Clandestine Meth Labs

Methamphetamine (Meth) is easily made in makeshift laboratories, such as rented apartments or hotel rooms. During the production of meth, indoor air and a property can become very contaminated by hazardous chemicals. There is also a high risk of fire or explosion.

When law enforcement officials seize a meth lab, they remove containers and bulk amounts of chemicals and waste, but chemical and drug residues can still remain and pose a health hazard.

### What To Do? EPA’s Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) Program Can Help

Thankfully there is a funding source still available for communities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) Program provides up to \$25,000 per incident for responding to the release, or threat of release, of a hazardous substance. This includes the cleanup of meth labs.

To qualify for reimbursement, EPA requires that the community provide proper documentation of costs and certification that the municipality is unable to pay for cleanup.

To find out if a site qualifies for reimbursement, please contact the LGR help line at 1-800-431-9209.

To find out more information about EPA’s Local Government Reimbursement Program or about meth labs, please click on the following links.

- EPA LGR webpage: [www.epa.gov/oem/content/lgr/](http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/lgr/)
- EPA Meth Labs webpage: [www.epa.gov/oem/methlab.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oem/methlab.htm)
- DNR Spills webpage: [dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/spills/index.htm#meth](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/spills/index.htm#meth)

## **Don't Forget! State Contractors Can Help Communities Clean Up Meth Labs**

Another resource that communities can use to help clean up meth labs is the DNR's Emergency Zone Contract. Under this contract, companies work on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to clean up emergency spills and other types of hazardous substance contamination.

Communities may also use the Emergency Zone Contract and work with these contractors in cases where the DNR is not party to the meth lab cleanup. Communities should still notify DNR about the cleanup. Also, any communities using the Emergency Response Zone Contract are solely responsible for the cost of services performed by the contractor.

A local government that conducts an emergency response action at a meth lab using the state contractors may be eligible for reimbursement through the federal Local Government Reimbursement Program.

To find out more information about state contractors, [visit the DNR Spills webpage](#) or contact Roxanne Chronert, Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program Spills Team Leader, at 920-662-5488, or [roxanne.chronet@wisconsin.gov](mailto:roxanne.chronet@wisconsin.gov).

\*Source: 2010 El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), National Seizure System (NSS), 1/1/2010-12/31/2010; includes labs, dumpsites, chemicals, glass and equipment

## **Software Update for Brownfields Mapping Program**

(Kansas State University) Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program has released an upgrade to the Desktop Edition of the Brownfields Inventory Tool (BIT), and it is now available to download. The Desktop version stores site data and runs from your own PC, not from a server on the internet.

The upgraded edition is dated May 6, 2011. To download it go to the [BIT web site](#) and scroll down to the link towards the bottom of the text, or simply [click here](#). This upgraded version has improved search/export, import, and reporting features.

NOTE: To upgrade a previously downloaded edition of BIT Desktop, uninstall the existing copy first using the Add/Remove Software utility in your Settings/Control Panel for your PC before installing the new version. You will not lose data entered previously.

For questions, contact [Blase A. Leven](#), Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program, Kansas State University, 785-532-0780 (office), 785-565-8198 (cell) or [www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/outreach/](http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/outreach/)

## **Brownfields and Cleanup News**

**States Expand Brownfields Tax Incentives:** The state of Louisiana is working towards passing [legislation](#) which would re-establish a tax credit for voluntary cleanup projects. Meanwhile, Iowa is [looking to expand \[exit DNR\]](#) its brownfields-greyfields tax credit.

*Editors Note: The concept of creating a state brownfields tax credit in Wisconsin was discussed at an April 2011 meeting of the Brownfields Study Group. [Click here](#) to view the meeting notes (starting on pg. 6).*

**Small WI Brownfields Project Wins Big Award:** An [experimental and artistic \[exit DNR\]](#) building on a brownfield in Greenfield, WI [recently earned a national award \[exit DNR\]](#).

## **Online & Classroom Training Opportunities from ITRC**

Click the links below for more information about upcoming classes.

**June 7** - [LNAPL Part 1: An Improved Understanding of LNAPL Behavior in the Subsurface](#)

**June 14** - [LNAPL Part 2: LNAPL Characterization and Recoverability](#)

**June 21** - [LNAPL Part 3: Evaluating LNAPL Remedial Technologies](#)

**June 23** - [Project Management for Site Remediation](#)

**July 12** - [Applying Attenuation Processes to Metals and Radionuclides](#)

**July 14** - [Bioavailability Considerations in the Evaluation of Contaminated Sediment Sites](#)

### **Vapor Intrusion Pathway: A Practical Guideline**

**Novi, MI – Detroit area (July 18-19, 2011)**

<https://www.regonline.com/ITRC-VI-MI>

**Denver, CO (October 3-4, 2011)**

More information and registration link will be available by July 1.