

House Bill 1550

By: Representatives Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup> and Watson of the 91<sup>st</sup>

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to waste  
2 management, so as to change provisions relating to rehabilitation of brownfields property;  
3 to enact the "Georgia Brownfields Rescue, Redevelopment, Community Revitalization, and  
4 Environmental Justice Act"; to state legislative findings; to define terms; to encourage the  
5 voluntary rehabilitation of property with a presence or suspected presence of hazardous  
6 substances, pollutants, or contaminants; to authorize the limitation of liability of persons  
7 carrying out such rehabilitation under certain conditions and compliance with program  
8 standards; to provide for a Brownfields Program Section within the Environmental Protection  
9 Division of the Department of Natural Resources; to create the Brownfields Interagency Task  
10 Force; to provide for rules and regulations; to create a Brownfields Revitalization Fund and  
11 provide sources of funding therefor; to provide for other related matters; to provide a  
12 contingent effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

13                   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

14                   **SECTION 1.**

15 Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to waste  
16 management, is amended by striking in its entirety Article 9, the "Georgia Hazardous Site  
17 Reuse and Redevelopment Act," and inserting in its place a new Article 9 to read as follows:

18                   **"ARTICLE 9**

19       12-8-200.

20       This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Brownfields Rescue,  
21       Redevelopment, Community Revitalization, and Environmental Justice Act.'

22       12-8-201.

23       (a) The General Assembly has found that:

- 1       (1) There are numerous abandoned, idle, contaminated, or otherwise environmentally  
2       'suspect' former industrial or commercial properties in Georgia the revitalization,  
3       redevelopment, and reuse of which are complicated by the presence or suspected  
4       presence thereon of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant;
- 5       (2) The mere perception that a property is, or may be, contaminated and that acquiring  
6       and undertaking to clean up, revitalize, and redevelop it could expose a new owner or  
7       developer to massive liability and incalculable cleanup costs is a virtually insurmountable  
8       barrier to the revitalization, redevelopment, and reuse of such a property;
- 9       (3) Most of these properties were the sites of 'first generation' uses that were once  
10      commercially viable but, for any number of reasons, including real or suspected  
11      contamination, have become obsolete or outmoded in today's commercial and industrial  
12      context;
- 13      (4) The obsolescence of such properties' initial uses notwithstanding, most are still,  
14      intrinsically, prime locations such as waterfronts, central city areas, or places that are  
15      nearby to other business and resources with high cost infrastructure, such as power,  
16      sewerage, streets, and other public facilities, already in place;
- 17      (5) Such properties, because of their 'blighted' condition and appearance, are commonly  
18      called 'brownfields';
- 19      (6) An unacceptably high percentage of these brownfields properties are in, or close by,  
20      minority and low income communities where their presence and continued neglect invite  
21      crime, contribute to creeping blight, and discourage efforts by low income and  
22      disadvantaged people to clean up, stabilize, and revitalize their neighborhoods;
- 23      (7) Rural areas, small towns and cities, and towns are also disproportionately adversely  
24      impacted not only by abandoned industrial sites, but also by closed gas stations and dry  
25      cleaners, old dumps, contaminated rail yards, mine-scarred lands, agricultural wastes such  
26      as pesticides, and many other unsafe and unsightly conditions;
- 27      (8) Our state with its rapidly expanding economy and soaring population is particularly  
28      vulnerable to one of the most disturbing, debilitating, and irreversible consequences of  
29      a failure to devise ways and means to rescue, revitalize, and reuse brownfields  
30      properties, to wit the rapidly expanding encroachment of development into our rural areas  
31      and the accompanying loss of 'greenfields' to urban sprawl;
- 32      (9) There are numerous neighborhood groups, community and civic associations, private  
33      persons, business organizations, and other entities willing to acquire and undertake to  
34      remediate, revitalize, redevelop, and reuse brownfields properties if they can be provided  
35      with protection from the sweeping liability provisions and infinite cleanup costs  
36      exposures imposed by state and federal environmental laws and regulations;

1       (10) The General Assembly's previous attempts to legislate a viable brownfields  
2 program, principally limitations of liability related to the acquisition and redevelopment  
3 of such properties and amendments to the tax code to allow tax preferred status for  
4 qualified brownfields properties, have not resulted in an acceptable number of  
5 brownfields revitalization and reuse projects and undertakings;

6       (11) Significant new measures must be designed, enacted, and implemented to encourage  
7 the rescue, redevelopment, reuse, and revitalization of brownfields sites in all areas of the  
8 state;

9       (12) The rapid growth of our economy and population and the corresponding urban  
10 sprawl and destruction of our greenfields and rural areas require that such measures be  
11 both immediate and far reaching in scope and application; and

12       (13) The health and well-being of our citizens, the protection of our environment and  
13 preservation of our natural resources, the development of our economy and production  
14 of new jobs, and the fair and impartial application and use of public resources toward  
15 such ends demand overarching change and significant expansion of existing brownfields  
16 laws and programs.

17       (b) The General Assembly intends this article to establish a Georgia Brownfields Program  
18 to encourage, assist, and provide for voluntary actions and undertakings to rescue,  
19 redevelop, and revitalize underused, blighted, or abandoned brownfields properties across  
20 the state and to establish ways and means to fund implementation of such program by  
21 appropriation of fees and fines collected by the division pursuant to Code Section 12-8-214  
22 and application of licensed environmental professional licensing fees imposed and  
23 collected pursuant to Chapter 17A of Title 43 and by appropriating, beginning with Fiscal  
24 Year 2007, one-half of the moneys previously designated for appropriation to the  
25 Hazardous Waste Trust Fund to the Brownfields Revitalization Fund established pursuant  
26 to Code Section 12-8-211.

27       (c) The General Assembly further intends to encourage private sector involvement in the  
28 Georgia Brownfields Program by the expansion of property and income tax credits and  
29 preferences available to private sector individuals and entities that undertake to clean up  
30 and reuse brownfields properties and by making available grants and loans to neighborhood  
31 groups, civic associations, nonprofit entities and private parties, and other entities that  
32 undertake cleanups of brownfields properties.

33       12-8-202.

34       (a) Unless otherwise provided in this article, the definition of all terms included in Code  
35 Sections 12-8-200 through 12-8-216 shall be applicable to this article.

36       (b) As used in this article, the term:

1       (1) 'Approved brownfields corrective action plan' means a plan and schedule for  
2 corrective action at an eligible brownfields property that has been approved by the  
3 director pursuant to Code Section 12-8-216;

4       (2) 'Board' means the board of the Department of Natural Resources.

5       (3) 'Brownfields certificate of compliance and no further action covenant' means a  
6 written certification by the director confirming a brownfields owner's full and timely  
7 implementation of an approved brownfields corrective action plan and confirming that  
8 the director will require no further cleanup or remedial action at the property for so long  
9 as:

10      (A) There is not another release of a hazardous substance on the property; and

11      (B) The brownfields owner or any successor or successors in title to the property  
12 continue to observe and enforce any brownfields property covenants imposed by the  
13 director and set out in the brownfields project agreement.

14       (4) 'Brownfields Interagency Task Force' or 'task force' or 'BIATF' means the task force  
15 created by the provisions of Code Section 12-8-204.

16       (5) 'Brownfields owner' means an individual, business organization, or other legal entity  
17 or association that has acquired a qualified brownfields property and undertaken  
18 implementation of an approved brownfields corrective action plan pursuant to a  
19 brownfields project agreement.

20       (6) 'Brownfields program' means the program established by this article and the rules and  
21 regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

22       (7) 'Brownfields program guidance' means the document mandated to be produced by  
23 the division pursuant to Code Section 12-8-205.

24       (8) 'Brownfields project agreement' means a written agreement pursuant to the provisions  
25 of Code Section 12-8-215 between the director and a prospective purchaser and other  
26 parties involved with the implementation of an approved brownfields corrective action  
27 plan at an eligible brownfields property.

28       (9) 'Brownfields project application' means an application on a form furnished by the  
29 division, together with supporting documentation as required by Code Section 12-8-214.

30       (10) 'Brownfields project manager' means the individual or business organization that  
31 is a licensed environmental professional, produces the prospective purchaser corrective  
32 action plan, works with the director to process it into an approved brownfields corrective  
33 plan, manages the implementation of the plan, and thereafter works with the director to  
34 secure a brownfields certificate of compliance and no further action covenant.

35       (11) 'Brownfields property' means a tract or parcel of land, improved or unimproved, that  
36 fits the descriptions of blighted properties set out in subsection (a) of Code Section  
37 12-8-201.

1       (12) 'Brownfields property covenants' means a declaration of permitted and prohibited  
2       land uses and related permissive and restrictive covenants set out in a brownfields project  
3       agreement and incorporated into the certificate of compliance and no further action  
4       covenant, including the installation and maintenance of institutional controls, which  
5       covenants must be filed in the land records of the county wherein the brownfields  
6       property is located.

7       (13) 'Brownfields remediation, redevelopment, and revitalization plan' means a plan  
8       developed and promoted by an individual, business organization, community association,  
9       or other entity to qualify several brownfields properties within the jurisdiction of a local  
10      government for remediation and redevelopment under and pursuant to the provisions of  
11      the Georgia Brownfields Program.

12      (14) 'Brownfields Revitalization Fund' or 'BRF' means the fund created pursuant to Code  
13      Section 12-8-211.

14      (15) 'Comprehensive land use plan' means a land use plan developed and adopted by a  
15      city or county pursuant to Code Section 36-70-3.

16      (16) 'Comprehensive response action' means the three phased undertakings and activities  
17      required to stabilize and clean up a qualifying brownfields property as follows:

18           (A) Phase I Activities: property investigation, property inspection, property  
19           assessment;

20           (B) Phase II Activities: feasibility study, remedial design, corrective action plan; and

21           (C) Phase III Activities: remedial action activities where the actual construction and  
22           implementation of property cleanup occurs.

23      (17) 'Director' means the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the  
24      Department of Natural Resources.

25      (18) 'Division' or 'EPD' means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department  
26      of Natural Resources.

27      (19) 'Federal brownfields program' means the program established by USEPA pursuant  
28      to the provisions of the 2002 Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields  
29      Revitalization Act.

30      (20) 'Federal environmental law' means the following acts of Congress, as now or  
31      hereafter amended, including:

32           (A) The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act  
33           ('CERCLA') as set out in 42 U.S.C.S. Sections 9601-9675, as now or hereafter  
34           amended;

35           (B) The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ('RCRA') as set out in 42 U.S.C.S.  
36           Section 12-13-1, et seq., as now or hereafter amended; and

1       (C) The Toxic Substances Control Act ('TSCA') as set out in 15 U.S.C.S. Section 2681,  
2       et seq., as now or hereafter amended.

3       (21) 'Groundwater' means any subsurface water that is in a zone of saturation.

4       (22) 'Hazardous sites inventory' means the hazardous sites inventory compiled by the  
5       division pursuant to Code Section 12-8-97.

6       (23) 'Initial status report' means a report:

7           (A) Produced and certified by a licensed environmental professional;

8           (B) Focusing on a property proposed as a qualifying brownfields property which is  
9       compliant with the 'all appropriate inquiry' requirements of Code Section 12-8-206; and

10          (C) Showing that either cleanup of soils and source materials is not required under  
11       applicable state and federal environmental laws and regulations or, if a cleanup is  
12       required, what corrective actions will be required to clean up the property in accordance  
13       with applicable environmental laws and rules and regulations promulgated in  
14       accordance with this article.

15       (24) 'Involved state agency' means any of the state agencies, departments, or divisions  
16       represented on the Brownfields Interagency Task Force as listed in Code Section  
17       12-8-204.

18       (25) 'Licensed environmental professional' means an individual or business organization  
19       certified and licensed as an environmental professional by the director pursuant to the  
20       provisions of Chapter 17A of Title 43.

21       (26) 'Licensing board' means the State Board of Certification, Registration, and  
22       Licensing of Licensed Environmental Professionals established pursuant to Chapter 17A  
23       of Title 43.

24       (27) 'Orphan site' means a site that is designated a hazardous site under the provisions  
25       of state environmental law or federal environmental law where no potentially responsible  
26       party can be identified, qualified, and compelled to pay for and implement a  
27       comprehensive response action.

28       (28) 'Potentially responsible party' or 'potentially responsible parties' or 'PRP' or 'PRP's'  
29       means individuals or entities who are liable for cleanup costs and damages for the release  
30       of a hazardous substance at a property or facility pursuant to state or federal  
31       environmental law.

32       (29) 'Preexisting release' means a release, as such term is defined in paragraph (11) of  
33       Code Section 12-8-92, which occurred at a proposed brownfields property prior to the  
34       prospective purchaser's submission of a brownfields project application.

35       (30) 'Proposed brownfields property' means a parcel or tract of land and the  
36       improvements thereon, if any, that is proposed to be cleaned up pursuant to a prospective  
37       purchaser corrective action plan and other provisions of a brownfields project application.

1       (31) 'Prospective purchaser' means a person, business organization, or other entity that  
2       meets the qualifications and requirements set forth in Code Section 12-8-208 and files a  
3       brownfields projection application pursuant to Code Section 12-8-208.

4       (32) 'Prospective purchaser corrective action plan' or 'PPCAP' means a plan and schedule  
5       for remediation of an eligible brownfields property that:

6           (A) Is produced and certified by a licensed environmental professional;

7           (B) Specifies an end use or uses for the property in one of the use categories listed in  
8           Code Section 12-8-207;

9           (C) Proposes cleanup criteria for the property pursuant to Code Section 12-8-207 and  
10          in accordance with the brownfields rules, regulations, and guidance promulgated  
11          pursuant to Code Section 12-8-205; and

12          (D) Enumerates and describes actions planned and proposed to bring any source  
13          material or soil found on the property into compliance with all applicable rules and  
14          regulations developed by the division pursuant to Code Sections 12-8-205 through  
15          12-8-207 governing the investigation, assessment, corrective action, and cleanup of a  
16          qualifying brownfields property.

17       (33) 'Prospective purchaser profile' means a verified resume of an individual, business  
18          organization, or other public or private entity setting out such individual's or  
19          organization's credentials for approval as a qualifying brownfields purchaser pursuant to  
20          the provisions of Code Section 12-8-208.

21       (34) 'Qualified brownfields property' means a tract or parcel of land which meets the  
22          criteria set out in Code Section 12-8-209.

23       (35) 'Soil' means any unconsolidated earth material, together with any unconsolidated  
24          plant or animal matter or foreign material that has been incorporated into it, that either  
25          consists of, remains within, or comes to be deposited on native soil or regolith.

26       (36) 'Source material' means any hazardous waste, hazardous substance, or hazardous  
27          constituent that has been released or disposed of that requires notification in accordance  
28          with the rules promulgated by the board pursuant to Part 2 of Article 3 of this chapter.

29       (37) 'State environmental law' means any of the following, as now or hereafter amended:

30           (A) The 'Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act,' Code Sections 12-8-60 through  
31           12-8-83;

32           (B) The 'Georgia Hazardous Site Response Act' ('HSRA'), Code Sections 12-8-90  
33           through 12-8-97;

34           (C) The 'Georgia Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act,' Code Section  
35           12-8-200 through 12-8-210; and

36           (D) The 'Georgia Underground Storage Tank Act' ('GUST'), Code Section 12-13-1  
37           through 12-13-22; and

1       (E) Any law of this state empowering and directing the board to comply with federal  
2       statutes relating to protection of the environment.

3       (38) 'USEPA' means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

4       12-8-203.

5       (a) The director shall establish and staff within the division a Brownfields Program Section  
6       of equal size and stature to its existing air, water, land, and hazardous waste sections. The  
7       Brownfields Program Section shall develop and promulgate rules, regulations, and  
8       operating procedures supportive of, and consistent with, the legislative intent expressed in  
9       Code Section 12-8-201 to establish a Georgia Brownfields Program. Such rules,  
10      regulations, and procedures shall be designed, to the maximum extent possible, to secure  
11      the combined benefits of environmental protection and economic redevelopment for the  
12      entire state. A draft of such rules, regulations, and procedures shall be available for review  
13      by the board, the Brownfields Interagency Task Force, the members of the House and  
14      Senate natural resources and environment committees, and other involved agencies on or  
15      before September 1, 2006.

16      (b) The Brownfields Program Section shall:

17       (1) Provide assistance to local governments and the private sector in understanding and  
18       taking advantage of the brownfields program established by this article;

19       (2) Provide technical assistance to municipalities, counties, redevelopment authorities,  
20       redevelopment agencies, community development committees and associations,  
21       economic development organizations and other persons and entities interested in rescuing  
22       and redeveloping brownfields properties;

23       (3) Serve as division liaison with the Brownfields Interagency Task Force and other  
24       local, state, and federal agencies on development issues affecting the Brownfields  
25       Program; and

26       (4) Ensure that the citizens of the state realize all possible benefits of federal and state  
27       programs to provide assistance for brownfields redevelopment efforts.

28      (c) The director is hereby authorized and directed to appoint a chief of the Brownfields  
29       Program Section who preferably shall have experience and expertise in not only  
30       environmental protection programs and measures, but also in economic development and  
31       commercial or industrial property development.

32       12-8-204.

33       (a) There is established within the Department of Economic Development a Brownfields  
34       Interagency Task Force. The task force shall be composed of 19 members as follows:

- 1       (1) The commissioner of economic development, who shall be the chairperson of the  
2 task force;
- 3       (2) The commissioner of community affairs, who shall be a cochairperson of the task  
4 force;
- 5       (3) The director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural  
6 Resources, who shall be a cochairperson of the task force;
- 7       (4) The Attorney General;
- 8       (5) The Commissioner of Insurance;
- 9       (6) The Labor Commissioner;
- 10      (7) The commissioner of transportation;
- 11      (8) The chairpersons of the House and Senate committees on natural resources and  
12 environment;
- 13      (9) Two additional members each of the House and Senate to be selected, respectively,  
14 by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- 15      (10) One member selected by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 16      (11) The chairperson of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia;
- 17      (12) The chairperson of the Georgia Municipal Association; and
- 18      (13) Three licensed environmental professionals to be appointed by the Governor.

19      (b) Any of the individuals named in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a) of this  
20 Code section may choose to nominate a staff member from their department or agency or  
21 committee to serve in their stead on the task force.

22      (c) The task force shall advise the division's Brownfields Program Section in establishing  
23 rules and regulations to implement the brownfields program and shall conduct outreach  
24 efforts to inform, educate, and encourage the private sector to undertake voluntary cleanups  
25 of brownfields properties.

26      (d) The task force shall convene at least quarterly to review actions taken by the division  
27 in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the brownfields program and shall, from time  
28 to time, as it deems necessary, report to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding  
29 actions, undertakings, and incentives that might further enhance and advance the  
30 brownfields program.

31      (e) The chairperson of the task force is authorized and directed to employ three staff  
32 members, one of whom shall be a licensed environmental professional, one of whom shall  
33 be a specialist in urban redevelopment with particular experience in bringing together  
34 community and development interests to implement specific projects, and one of whom  
35 shall provide administrative support.

1 12-8-205.

2 (a) As provided in subsection (a) of Code Section 12-8-203, the division, through the  
3 Brownfields Program Section, shall develop rules and regulations to implement and  
4 enforce the provisions of this article. Such rules and regulations may be applicable to the  
5 state as a whole or may vary from region to region, as may be appropriate to facilitate the  
6 accomplishment of the provisions, purposes, and policies of this article.

7 (b) In addition to the standard rules and regulations to be promulgated pursuant to  
8 subsection (a) of Code Section 12-8-203, the division shall compile and publish a  
9 comprehensive, plain language, brownfields guidance document to educate and inform  
10 prospective purchasers and other interested parties with respect to the provisions of both  
11 the federal and state brownfields laws and programs and to provide prospective purchasers  
12 and licensed environmental professionals in their employ with a step-by-step template for  
13 compiling and filing a brownfields project application. The brownfields guidance shall set  
14 out a listing and description of the end uses and corresponding cleanup criteria required by  
15 Code Section 12-8-207 together with remedial design and corrective action requirements  
16 generally associated with such end uses, all with the purpose of enabling a prospective  
17 purchaser to:

- 18 (1) Identify and anticipate the nature and cost of required corrective actions and  
19 restrictive use covenants likely to be required for approval of a particular end use or uses  
20 of a brownfields property;
- 21 (2) Anticipate use restrictions and institutional controls that are likely to be imposed on  
22 a particular use and how they might affect the placement and configuration of  
23 improvements on the property; and
- 24 (3) Develop an economic feasibility analysis of a proposed plan for rescue, revitalization,  
25 redevelopment, and reuse of a Brownfields Property.

26 (c) The rules, regulations, and guidance to be promulgated under this Code section shall  
27 be written, compiled, published, and made available to the public no later than September  
28 1, 2006.

29 12-8-206.

30 The intent of the General Assembly in enacting this article is to encourage brownfields  
31 cleanups by reducing the complexity of the process and eliminating, to the maximum  
32 extent possible, uncertainties relating to differences and conflicts between the federal and  
33 state brownfields programs and the liability protections afforded prospective purchasers by  
34 each. Accordingly, the director shall strive to reconcile the rules and regulations  
35 promulgated pursuant to Code Section 12-8-205 with their federal counterparts, in  
36 particular the federal rule setting out standards and practices for the conduct of 'all

1 appropriate inquiries' into the present and past uses of a property and the potential presence  
2 of environmental contamination on the property.

3 12-8-207.

4 (a) The director shall establish cleanup criteria and approve of remedial actions in the use  
5 categories listed in this subsection. The cleanup criteria for such use categories shall be  
6 based on generic human health risk assessment assumptions determined by the director to  
7 appropriately characterize patterns of human exposure associated with certain land uses.  
8 The director shall utilize only reasonable and relevant exposure pathways in determining  
9 these assumptions. The director may prescribe more than one generic set of exposure  
10 assumptions within each use category. If the director prescribes more than one generic set  
11 of exposure assumptions within a category, each set of exposure assumptions shall be  
12 deemed to create a subcategory within a use category. The director shall specify property  
13 characteristics that determine the applicability of criteria derived for these categories or  
14 subcategories. The use categories are as follows:

- 15 (1) Residential;
- 16 (2) Commercial;
- 17 (3) Recreational;
- 18 (4) Industrial;
- 19 (5) Other land uses based on categories established by the director;
- 20 (6) Limited residential;
- 21 (7) Limited commercial;
- 22 (8) Limited recreational;
- 23 (9) Limited industrial; and
- 24 (10) Other limited categories established by the director.

25 (b) The director may approve a prospective purchaser corrective action plan based on  
26 property specific cleanup criteria that satisfy the applicable requirements of this article and  
27 the rules and regulations promulgated under this article. The director shall utilize only  
28 reasonable and relevant exposure pathways in determining the adequacy of a property  
29 specific criterion. Additionally, the director may approve a PPCAP for a designated  
30 area-wide zone encompassing more than one brownfields property, and may consolidate  
31 remedial actions for more than one brownfields property.

32 (c) The director shall not approve a prospective purchaser corrective action plan in  
33 categories set forth in paragraphs (1) through (10) of subsection (a) of this Code section  
34 unless the licensed environmental professional producing the plan certifies that the current  
35 zoning of the property is consistent with the categorical cleanup criteria being proposed or  
36 that the governing authority intends to change the zoning designation so that the proposed

1 criteria are consistent with the new zoning designation; provided, however, that approval  
2 of a PPCAP depending on a pending change in zoning shall not be final until such zoning  
3 change has been made by the local unit of government. The director may approve of a  
4 remedial action that achieves categorical criteria that is based on greater exposure potential  
5 than the criteria applicable to current zoning. In addition, a PPCAP shall include  
6 documentation that the current property use is consistent with the current zoning or is a  
7 legal nonconforming use. Abandoned or inactive property shall be considered on the basis  
8 of zoning classifications as described above.

9 (d) Cleanup criteria from one or more categories in subsection (a) of this Code section may  
10 be applied at a brownfields property if all relevant requirements are satisfied for application  
11 of a pertinent criterion.

12 (e) Approval by the director of a PPCAP based on one or more categorical standards listed  
13 in paragraphs (1) through (10) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be granted only  
14 if the pertinent criteria are satisfied in the affected media. The director shall approve the  
15 use of probabilistic or statistical methods or other scientific methods of evaluating  
16 environmental data when determining compliance with a pertinent cleanup criterion if the  
17 methods are determined by the director to be reliable and scientifically valid and best  
18 represent actual site conditions and exposure potential.

19 (f) A PPCAP for a particular brownfields property that relies on categorical cleanup  
20 criteria developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall also consider other  
21 factors necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment as  
22 specified by the director, if the director determines, based on data and existing information  
23 that such considerations are relevant to the particular brownfields property. These factors  
24 include, but are not limited to, the protection of surface water quality and consideration of  
25 ecological risks if pertinent to the brownfields property.

26 (g) The director shall annually evaluate and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the  
27 cleanup criteria derived pursuant to this Code section. The evaluation shall incorporate  
28 knowledge gained through research and studies in the areas of fate and transport and risk  
29 assessment. The director shall prepare and submit an annual report on such findings to the  
30 board; and, if the board determines appropriate, the report detailing revisions made to  
31 cleanup criteria may be incorporated into a proposed amendment to this Code section  
32 which shall be submitted to the General Assembly and the BIATF as a part of the  
33 division's requests for changes in the law.

34 (h) If a brownfields property encompasses several areas where disparate land uses are  
35 contemplated, the director may specify different cleanup criteria applicable to such  
36 disparate uses.

1      12-8-208.

2      (a) To qualify for a limitation of liability as provided in Code Section 12-8-210, a  
3      prospective purchaser must:

4        (1) Not be a person or business organization that has contributed or is contributing to a  
5      preexisting release at the proposed brownfields property;

6        (2) Not be related to any individual or be affiliated with or hold any interest in a business  
7      organization or entity that has contributed or is contributing to a release of a hazardous  
8      substance on the proposed brownfields property; and

9        (3) Not be in violation of any order, judgment, statute, rule, or regulation subject to the  
10     enforcement authority of the director.

11     (b) A prospective purchaser must submit, as a part of a brownfields project application,  
12     a verified prospective purchaser profile confirming that he or she or it is not a person or  
13     business organization disqualified under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) of this  
14     Code section and a financial statement or other documentation evidencing the ability to  
15     finance implementation of the remedial actions and other activities set out in the  
16     prospective purchaser corrective action plan.

17     (c) The director may grant a variance from the eligibility requirements contained in  
18     paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section if he or she:

19        (1) Finds that such criteria would render a prospective purchaser that is a nonprofit  
20     business organization or a community or civic association or a public-private joint  
21     venture to which a local government is a party ineligible for a limitation of liability under  
22     this article;

23        (2) Determines that no other qualified prospective purchaser has filed a brownfields  
24     project application on the subject property and that such ineligibility would result in the  
25     continuation of a condition on the subject property which poses a threat to human health  
26     and the environment;

27        (3) Finds that the state would likely be required to perform the necessary corrective  
28     action using public moneys; or

29        (4) Finds that, in all probability, the division would be unable to recover the cost of state  
30     managed corrective action at the property as provided in Code Section 12-8-96.1.

31      12-8-209.

32      (a) The rules and regulations promulgated under and pursuant to Code Section 12-8-205  
33     shall include, but not limited to, the standards and requirements set out in subsection (b)  
34     of this Code section.

35      (b) In order to be designated a qualifying brownfields property, a property must meet the  
36     following criteria:

- (1) It must be contaminated by a preexisting release;
- (2) Any lien filed under subsection (e) of Code Section 12-8-96 against the property must be satisfied or settled and released by the director; and
- (3) It must not:
  - (A) Be listed on the Federal National Priorities List pursuant to the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq.;
  - (B) Be currently undergoing response activities required by an order of the Regional Administrator of the Federal Environmental Protection Division issued pursuant to the provisions of such act; or
  - (C) Be a hazardous waste facility as defined in Code Section 12-8-62.

12-8-210.

(a) Upon the director's approval of a prospective purchaser's corrective action plan, a prospective purchaser shall not be liable to the state or any third party for costs incurred in the remediation of, equitable relief relating to, or damages resultant from a preexisting release, nor shall the prospective purchaser be required to certify compliance with risk reduction standards for ground water, perform corrective action, or otherwise be liable for any preexisting releases to ground water associated with the qualifying brownfields property.

(b) The liability protection provided under this Code section shall benefit all of the persons or entities described as covered parties in this subsection to the same extent as a prospective purchaser who files a brownfields project application which is approved by the director and for which a brownfields certificate of compliance and no further action covenant is issued by the director so long as such persons are not otherwise potentially responsible parties or parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates of any potentially responsible parties. Such covered parties are:

- (1) Any person in the employ of the prospective purchaser who directs or contracts for remediation or redevelopment of the brownfields property;
- (2) Any future owner of the brownfields property;
- (3) A person who develops or occupies the brownfields property;
- (4) A contiguous property owner if such owner is a party to a brownfields project agreement; and
- (5) Any lender or fiduciary that provides financing for remediation or redevelopment of the brownfields property.

(c) A person who conducts an environmental assessment or transaction screen that is part of a initial status report or a prospective purchaser corrective action plan on a brownfields

1 property and who is not otherwise a potentially responsible party shall not become a  
2 potentially responsible party as a result of conducting such environmental assessment or  
3 transaction screen unless that person increases the risk of harm to public health or the  
4 environment by failing to exercise due diligence and reasonable care in performing the  
5 environmental assessment or transaction screen.

6 (d) If a land use restriction or requirement for installation, operation, and maintenance of  
7 institutional controls is set up by the director as a condition precedent to his or her approval  
8 of a prospective purchaser corrective action plan and the prospective purchaser accepts  
9 such conditions and restrictions as a part of the brownfields project agreement applicable  
10 to such property and if such restrictions or requirements are set out in brownfields property  
11 covenants, then if any such restriction or requirement is later breached or violated, the  
12 brownfields property owner at the time such restriction or requirement is violated, any  
13 successor in title, and any agent of such owner who directs or contracts for alteration of the  
14 brownfields property in violation of such restriction or requirement shall be liable for  
15 remediation of the property to the use standards set out in the brownfields property  
16 covenants.

17 (e) A prospective purchaser who fully implements an approved corrective action plan and  
18 complies with all of the provisions of a brownfields project agreement and any other person  
19 who receives liability protection under this Code section shall not be required to undertake  
20 additional remediation at the brownfields property unless:

21 (1) The prospective purchaser or any licensed environmental professional employed by  
22 the prospective purchaser knowingly provides false information that forms a basis for  
23 concurrence by the director with any component of a prospective purchaser corrective  
24 action plan or any other document that is submitted to the division and incorporated into  
25 the brownfields project agreement or that is offered to demonstrate compliance with the  
26 PPCAP or other provisions of the brownfields project agreement or fails to disclose  
27 relevant information about contamination at the brownfields property; or

28 (2) The level of risk to public health or the environment from previously undiscovered  
29 contaminants on the brownfields property due to changes in exposure conditions  
30 occasioned by a change in land use at the brownfields property increases the probability  
31 of exposure to contaminants to a degree reasonably considered by the director to be a  
32 threat to public health and the environment.

33 (f) Any person whose use, including any change in use, of a brownfields property causes  
34 such an unacceptable risk to public health or the environment as set out in paragraph (1)  
35 or (2) of subsection (e) of this Code section may be required by the director to undertake  
36 additional remediation measures.

37 (g) The limitation of liability provided by this Code section shall be contingent upon:

1       (1) The purchaser's good faith implementation of the approved brownfields corrective  
2       action plan for the property; and

3       (2) Certification by the director of compliance with the cleanup criteria and standards set  
4       out in the approved brownfields corrective action plan; provided, however, that neither  
5       a prospective purchaser qualified under the provisions of Code Section 12-8-208 nor a  
6       licensed environmental professional employed by such prospective purchaser shall incur  
7       any liability with respect to any initial site investigation and site assessment activities  
8       conducted in course of preparation of an initial site status report.

9       (h) The limitation of liability provided by this article shall not affect any right of  
10      indemnification which any person has or may acquire by contract against any other person  
11      who is otherwise liable for creating an environmental hazard; nor shall they apply to  
12      persons who intentionally, wantonly, or willfully violate federal or state regulations in the  
13      cleanup process.

14      (i) The limitation of liability provided by this article shall be fully transferable to the heirs,  
15      successors, assigns, and designees of the person to whom such limitation of liability was  
16      granted; provided, however, that in no event shall the director's concurrence with the  
17      provisions of a PPCAP or issuance of a brownfields certificate of compliance operate to  
18      absolve from liability any PRP for a preexisting release on the property.

19      (j) A transfer of the title to a qualified brownfields property or any portion thereof from  
20      the prospective purchaser back to the owner from whom the subject property was  
21      purchased, any other party deemed to be a PRP at the property, or any person disqualified  
22      from obtaining a limitation of liability under Code Section 12-8-208 shall terminate any  
23      limitation of liability applicable to the transferor under this article.

24      (k) A contiguous property owner may qualify for the liability protections provided by this  
25      Code section if such owner voluntarily offers his or her or its property to be incorporated  
26      into, and made a part of, and subject to the provisions of the brownfields project agreement.

27      12-8-211.

28      (a) There is hereby established a Brownfields Revitalization Fund which is to be held and  
29      managed by the task force in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this Code  
30      section and to which shall be credited:

31       (1) Any appropriations or other moneys authorized by the General Assembly and  
32       specifically designated to be credited to the BRF, including 50 percent of the moneys  
33       collected by the division pursuant to Code section 12-8-91, but directed to be deposited  
34       into the BRF by the provisions of this Code section;

1       (2) Any grants, gifts, or other moneys directed to the BRF, specifically including, but not  
2       limited to, moneys received by the division pursuant to grant applications to USEPA  
3       under the provisions of the federal brownfields program; and  
4       (3) Any income derived from an investment of amounts credited to the BRF.

5       (b) As used in this Code section, the following words shall have the following meanings  
6       unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7           (1) 'Loan' means a loan or credit enhancement including, but not limited to, a loan  
8           guarantee, letter of credit or insurance.

9           (2) 'Phase I Activities' means the actions undertaken pursuant to subparagraph (b)(16)(A)  
10          of Code Section 12-8-202.

11          (3) 'Phase II Activities' means the actions undertaken pursuant to subparagraph  
12          (b)(16)(B) of Code Section 12-8-202.

13          (4) 'Phase III Activities' means the means the actions undertaken pursuant to  
14          subparagraph (b)(16)(C) of Code Section 12-8-202.

15          (5) 'Priority project' means a Brownfields Project which is eligible for funding under this  
16          Code section and with respect to which the local government jurisdiction in which the  
17          Brownfields Property is located has made available in support of the project significant  
18          technical and administrative support and substantial funds in the form of grants, loans,  
19          or abated property taxes.

20          (6) 'Qualified applicant' means a prospective purchaser, qualified pursuant to the  
21          provisions of Code Section 12-8-209, who holds a valid and enforceable option or  
22          contract right to acquire a tract or parcel of land that is, or may reasonably be anticipated  
23          to be, a qualified brownfields property pursuant to the provisions of Code Section  
24          12-8-209.

25       (c) The task force shall hold the fund in an account maintained by the Department of  
26       Economic Development and shall utilize, invest, or reinvest or disburse the moneys therein  
27       to encourage voluntary cleanups of brownfields properties under and pursuant to the  
28       brownfields program by providing loans and grants to finance Phase I, II, and III activities  
29       at brownfields properties. The task force may make and administer grants and loans  
30       generally as it deems necessary and proper to accomplish the goals and objectives of the  
31       brownfields program; provided, however that:

32           (1) Preference shall be accorded applications for loans and grants to finance Phase I and  
33           II activities or other undertakings that will enable applicants to reach at least a  
34           preliminary determination regarding a property's eligibility for inclusion in the  
35           brownfields program;

36           (2) The loan documents require that any qualified applicant who has received grants or  
37           loans from the fund to finance Phase I and II a activities at a brownfields property and

1 then does not proceed with Phase III Activities or who is otherwise disqualified for  
2 participation in the brownfields program shall transfer the data and documentation  
3 relating to the subject Phase I and II activities to the task force;

4 (3) No qualified applicant shall receive grants or loans to conduct Phase I, II, or III  
5 activities at a particular brownfields property that cumulatively exceed \$500,000.00;

6 (4) No single project shall receive a grant or loan to conduct Phase I and Phase II  
7 activities which shall exceed \$75,000.00;

8 (5) No loan or grant made under this Code section shall be expended to finance more  
9 than 80 percent of the costs required to complete Phase III Activities;

10 (6) No grant shall be awarded to a local government, including related development  
11 authorities and other quasi-governmental entities unless and until the qualified applicant  
12 for such grant contributes an amount equal to 20 percent of the grant for which such  
13 qualified applicant has applied; and

14 (7) Security for loans made under this Code section may be subordinate to private or  
15 other financing provided for Phase I, II, or III activities.

16 (d) To be eligible for financial assistance from the fund, in addition to the requirements  
17 in subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section, the qualified applicant and project shall  
18 meet the following requirements and the qualified applicant shall submit to the division,  
19 for the task force's final approval, a completed application providing all information  
20 required by this Code section and by the fund guidelines, including, at a minimum, a  
21 showing that:

22 (1)(A) The proposed brownfields project will result in a significant positive economic  
23 impact in terms of the number of jobs to be created or will contribute to the economic  
24 or physical revitalization of the area in which the property is located and a significant  
25 level of community benefits shall be associated with the project; or

26 (B) If the qualified applicant is requesting financing for the cost of Phase III Activities,  
27 that assistance from the fund is necessary to make the proposed reuse of the property  
28 economically feasible;

29 (2) The qualified applicant certifies that he, she, or it is not a PRP with respect to the  
30 property;

31 (3) The qualified applicant does not have a familial relationship or a direct or indirect  
32 business relationship with any person or entity that is a PRP with respect to the property;  
33 provided, however, that the provisions of this paragraph may be waived if, after full  
34 disclosure by the qualified applicant of any familial or business relationship with a PRP,  
35 the task force determines that such waiver is in the best interest of the public; and

36 (4) The qualified applicant is not subject to any outstanding administrative or judicial  
37 environmental enforcement action unless the qualified applicant has entered into an

1 agreement with USEPA or EPD to resolve such enforcement action with respect to the  
2 property under consideration for assistance from the fund and with respect to any other  
3 properties located within the state for which the qualified applicant is liable as a  
4 potentially responsible party.

5 (e) The task force shall approve or reject applications after taking into consideration the  
6 intent of the General Assembly as set out in Code Section 12-8-201 and the goals and  
7 objectives of the brownfields program as detailed in this article.

8 (f) The members of the task force shall not be liable for any claim, loss, cost, damage, or  
9 injury of any nature whatsoever arising in connection with the task force's administration  
10 of this article or the environmental condition of a qualifying brownfields property unless  
11 such loss, cost, injury, or damage is caused by their gross negligence or willful misconduct.

12 (g) The task force may charge fees for defraying the ordinary and necessary expenses of  
13 administration and operation associated with the fund. All fees received under this  
14 subsection shall be deposited into the fund.

15 (h) On the first Monday in January, 2007, and, on the same day of each succeeding year  
16 thereafter, the task force shall file, jointly and in writing, a report to the Governor and the  
17 General Assembly regarding the progress of the brownfields program created pursuant to  
18 this article. Such report shall include information and data relating to the effectiveness of  
19 the financial incentives offered by the program and made available from the fund which  
20 shall include, but shall not be limited to:

21 (1) The number of projects assisted through the fund, with a specification of the amount  
22 of any loan or grant awarded to each;

23 (2) The manner in which such projects contribute to the economic and physical  
24 revitalization of the areas in which the projects are located and a description of steps  
25 taken by the division and the task force to make the application process efficient and  
26 manageable; and

27 (3) Such other information as will provide a fair evaluation of the program.

28 12-8-212.

29 (a) The task force may make grants and loans to towns, cities, and counties to further the  
30 goals and objectives of the brownfields program.

31 (b) A local government that receives a loan or grant under this Code section shall establish  
32 a local brownfields committee as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section to review  
33 applications for loans submitted to the local government under the provisions of this article  
34 and subject to the restrictions set out in subsections (c) through (e) of Code Section  
35 12-8-211.

1       (c) A local brownfields committee shall coordinate its activities and undertakings with the  
2       local governing authority of the jurisdiction in which it sits. A local brownfields committee  
3       shall consist of members to represent each of the following:  
4           (1) The city or county government;  
5           (2) Neighborhood committees or associations actively engaged in efforts to revitalize  
6       blighted properties or areas in their communities;  
7           (3) Conservation or environmental organizations active in the local community;  
8           (4) Civic organizations; and  
9           (5) The local chamber of commerce.

10      12-8-213.

11      (a) The provisions of this article are intended to authorize, empower, and encourage  
12       actions and undertakings in furtherance of the General Assembly's obligation to: (1)  
13       protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of the state; and (2)  
14       perform its duty to preserve natural resources, the environment, and vital areas of the state.

15      (b) No provision of this article is intended or shall be construed as enlarging the eminent  
16       domain powers of any governmental entity or diminishing the private property rights of any  
17       citizen. The focus and purpose of this article is to create a program that will revive and  
18       enhance private property rights by setting out ways and means to clean up, revitalize, and  
19       reuse properties that presently lie idle, abandoned, or underused because of the presence  
20       or potential presence thereon of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. This  
21       article is intended only to invest state agencies and local governments with the power,  
22       authority, and obligation to assist and encourage voluntary cleanup of blighted properties.

23      (c) Neighborhood groups, civic associations, private individuals, and entities with an  
24       interest in or desire to clean up and revitalize blighted properties in their neighborhoods,  
25       communities, cities, or counties, or in any other area or political subdivision of the state,  
26       may request a local government or the task force to assist them in developing, seeking  
27       approval of, and implementing a brownfields remediation, redevelopment, and  
28       revitalization plan or a brownfields project plan.

29      (d) A brownfields project plan shall set and include all of the components of a brownfields  
30       remediation, redevelopment, and revitalization plan as are listed and described in  
31       subsections (e) and (f) of this Code section and shall also include a prospective purchaser  
32       corrective action plan and other components of a brownfields project application set out  
33       and described in Code Section 12-8-214.

34      (e) Both a brownfields remediation, redevelopment, and revitalization plan and a  
35       brownfields project plan must be compatible with the zoning and comprehensive land plan  
36       developed pursuant to Code Section 36-70-3 through 36-70-28 and adopted by city or

1 county where the properties proposed to be covered by the plan or plans are located;  
2 provided, however, that such a plan may be submitted to local governing authorities as part  
3 of a request for rezoning of the subject property or properties.

4 (f) A local government may adopt a brownfields remediation, redevelopment, and  
5 revitalization plan or a brownfields project plan as an amendment to its comprehensive land  
6 use plan if such government, in so doing, follows all of the provisions of Code Section  
7 36-70-3 through 36-70-28 applicable to such action.

8 12-8-214.

9 (a) All brownfields project applications shall include:

10 (1) A prospective purchaser profile as defined and required by Code Section 12-8-208;  
11 (2) A prospective purchaser corrective action plan as defined in Code Section 12-8-202;  
12 and

13 (3) A nonrefundable application review fee of \$1,000.00; provided, however, that any  
14 nonprofit organization, civic association, community, or neighborhood group or  
15 association shall not be required to pay such fee.

16 (b) All plans, proposals, and reports included in a brownfields project application must be  
17 prepared and certified by a licensed environmental professional.

18 (c) By making such application, the prospective purchaser shall be deemed to agree to all  
19 of the requirements of this article.

20 (d) All applications received by the division shall be stamped by the division to document  
21 the date and time of filing.

22 (e) The provisions of Code Sections 12-8-208 and 12-8-209 to the contrary  
23 notwithstanding, the director may condition his or her concurrence with, and approval of,  
24 a PPCAP on provisions relating to the time all or any portion of the PPCAP must be  
25 completed.

26 (f) The director shall be deemed to have approved a brownfields project application  
27 submitted pursuant to subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this Code section unless he or she  
28 informs the applicant, in writing and within 30 days of the date of such filing, that he or  
29 she:

30 (1) Finds the prospective purchaser to be ineligible for the liability protections offered  
31 under and pursuant to Code Section 12-8-208;

32 (2) Finds the proposed brownfields property to be ineligible for cleanup under and  
33 pursuant to Code Section 12-8-209; or

34 (3) Finds the potential purchaser corrective action plan deficient, incorrect, or  
35 unacceptable in any particular.

1       (g) The director shall state with specificity, and in detail, the reasons for his or her actions  
2       under and pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (f) of this Code section.

3       12-8-215.

4       Before any actions are taken with respect to cleanup of a qualifying brownfields property,  
5       the prospective brownfields purchaser and the division shall enter into a brownfields  
6       project agreement which shall incorporate:

- 7           (1) A description of all remediation to be conducted on the property;
- 8           (2) A description of specific areas where remediation is to be conducted;
- 9           (3) A listing of the remediation method or methods to be employed;
- 10          (4) A description of the resources that the prospective purchaser will make available;
- 11          (5) A listing and description of the agreed upon method or methods for evaluating the  
12       effectiveness of remediation actions and undertakings;
- 13          (6) A listing of all land use restrictions that will apply to the brownfields property;
- 14          (7) A statement of the desired results of any remediation or land use restrictions to be  
15       imposed upon the brownfields property;
- 16          (8) A listing and description of the guidelines, including parameters, principles, and  
17       policies within which the desired results are to be accomplished;
- 18          (9) An agreed upon description of the consequences of achieving or not achieving the  
19       desired remediation results;
- 20          (10) A detailed schedule for initiation and completion of all remediation activities and  
21       undertakings and all other requirements imposed upon the parties; and
- 22          (11) An acknowledgment that any failure by the prospective purchaser or the prospective  
23       purchaser's agents and employees to comply with the brownfields project agreement will  
24       constitute a violation of this article.

25       12-8-216.

26       (a) The director shall have the obligation and duty to:

- 27           (1) Assess and collect the brownfields project application review fee provided for in  
28       Code Section 12-8-214, in writing and within 30 days of the filing of a brownfields  
29       project application;
- 30           (2) Confirm that the person or business organization compiling, certifying, and  
31       submitting the prospective purchaser corrective action plan with respect to the proposed  
32       brownfields property is a licensed environmental professional;
- 33           (3) Determine and confirm, in accordance with procedures and criteria enumerated in  
34       this article and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this article, whether the

1 prospective purchaser submitting such project application qualifies for a limitation of  
2 liability pursuant to Code Section 12-8-210;

3 (4) Review and approve or disapprove the prospective purchaser corrective action plan  
4 submitted as part of a brownfields project application and determine if it is deficient,  
5 defective, or incomplete in any particular; and

6 (5) Advise the prospective purchaser, in particular and in writing, of the nature and  
7 extent of any such defect or deficiency and of what action or undertaking will be required  
8 to correct same.

9 (b) In the exercise of the duties and obligations required of him or her by subsection (a)  
10 of this Code section, the director shall be ever mindful that the General Assembly's  
11 purpose and intention in enacting this article is to encourage, accommodate, and expedite  
12 the rescue, revitalization, redevelopment, and reuse of brownfields properties and the  
13 revitalization of surrounding neighborhoods and that, accordingly, the provisions of this  
14 article should be liberally construed in accordance with such purpose and intent.

15 (c) If a prospective purchaser corrects a brownfields project application in particular as  
16 required by the director pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) of this Code  
17 section and resubmits same within 120 days of notification by the director of such defects  
18 or deficiencies, then no additional application review fee may be assessed and collected.

19 12-8-217.

20 (a) In addition to the obligations and duties imposed upon the director under Code Section  
21 12-8-216, he or she shall, on or before September 1, 2006, take whatever actions as are  
22 necessary to establish common practices and standard operating procedures for negotiating  
23 and memorializing memoranda of agreement between the division and EPA Region IV to:

24 (1) Define the roles and responsibilities of EPA Region IV and the division to guide and  
25 facilitate the division's implementation of the brownfields program established by this  
26 article;

27 (2) Recognize the brownfields program for grant funding eligibility purposes pursuant  
28 to Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and  
29 Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C.S. Section 9601, et seq. (CERCLA);

30 (3) Express how the agencies intend, generally, to exercise their respective authorities  
31 at sites where the division and brownfields owners have executed a brownfields project  
32 agreement;

33 (4) Implement the federal 'One Cleanup Program' initiative by working together to  
34 achieve cleanups that protect human health and the environment by making greater use  
35 of available state and federal resources and authorities; sharing science and technological

1      approaches; and selecting the optimum programmatic tools to increase the pace,  
2      effectiveness, cost efficiency, and quality of such cleanups;

3      (5) Facilitate the cleanup and beneficial reuse of brownfields properties in this state by  
4      maximizing the use of existing infrastructures, thereby conserving and minimizing  
5      development of green spaces and pristine open areas;

6      (6) Provide opportunities for the agencies to exercise their authorities under the state and  
7      federal brownfields programs and demonstrate how they can use their respective powers  
8      and resources to ensure appropriate brownfields property rehabilitation tasks and to  
9      demonstrate how such authorities, powers, and resources can be exercised in a mutually  
10     complementary way to protect the environment and revitalize blighted properties;

11     (7) Provide coordinated and consistent technical assistance and information to promote  
12     informed decision making with respect to brownfields properties by property owners,  
13     prospective purchasers, lenders, public and private developers, citizens, local  
14     governments, and elected officials; and

15     (8) Publicly confirm the agencies' belief that the voluntary cleanup, revitalization,  
16     redevelopment, and reuse of existing contaminated or potentially contaminated  
17     brownfields properties will yield significant costs savings and increased program  
18     efficiencies and provide significant benefits to the environment, public health, and the  
19     economies of affected local communities.

20     (b) The director shall ensure that, on or before September 1, 2006, a generic brownfields  
21     program memorandum of agreement between the division and EPA Region IV is in effect  
22     and that such memorandum of agreement covers prospectively, and to the maximum extent  
23     possible, brownfields projects that are developed in conformity with the provisions of this  
24     article.

25     (c) The director shall ensure that all brownfields project agreements concluded between  
26     the division and prospective purchasers and other involved individuals and entities party  
27     to such agreement include representations and warranties running to the prospective  
28     purchasers or other individuals or entities party to such agreement or an individual or entity  
29     reasonable foreseeable as being a third-party beneficiary of such agreement confirming:

30        (1) That EPA Region IV has reviewed and evaluated the brownfields program and has  
31        determined that the brownfields program, as implemented under the provisions of this  
32        article, includes all of the elements of an acceptable state response program as described  
33        in CERCLA Section 128(a)(2);

34        (2) That the agencies will work in a coordinated manner to avoid, to the maximum extent  
35        possible, duplication of enforcement efforts at brownfields properties and to ensure that  
36        property remediation can continue in a timely fashion;

(3) That, subject only to the exceptions listed in CERCLA Section 128(b), EPA Region IV does not plan on or anticipate taking any administrative or judicial enforcement action under CERCLA Section 106(a) or 107(a) against a person that is addressing a specific release at a brownfields property in compliance with this article and the brownfields program;

(4) That EPA Region IV does not plan on or anticipate taking any removal or remedial action under CERCLA or any other provision of federal environmental law at any brownfields property being remediated under the provisions of this article and the brownfields program so long as such property remains in compliance with the brownfields program; and

(5) That when a comprehensive response action under and pursuant to this article and the brownfields program has been completed at a qualified brownfields property and all other requirements of the brownfields project agreement applicable to such property have been satisfied, or are in the process of being satisfied, and the director has issued a brownfields certificate of compliance and no further action covenant for the property no further enforcement action shall be taken unless:

(A) The person responsible for brownfields property rehabilitation fails or refuses to complete the comprehensive response action in a timely manner, including operation and maintenance or long-term monitoring, and the division is unable to ensure implementation of all such activities and undertakings as are included in the brownfields project agreement; or

(B) Either or both EPA Region IV and the division determine that conditions at the brownfields property continue to present a threat to human health or safety or the environment and that such threat or threats remain or result from a failure to properly implement an approved corrective action plan or maintain land use restrictions or institutional or engineering controls required by the terms of the brownfields project agreement.

(d) The director shall ensure that the parties to any brownfields project agreement are fully informed with regard to the limitations of protections afforded the brownfields owner or brownfields developer under the terms and conditions of a standard brownfields agreement as it is limited by the terms of the memorandum of agreement between the division and EPA Region IV."

## SECTION 2.

34 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
35 without such approval only if there is enacted into law at the 2006 session of the General  
36 Assembly of Georgia a bill which enacts a new Chapter 17A of Title 43 of the Official Code

1 of Georgia Annotated providing for the qualification and licensing of individuals and  
2 companies to conduct or design hazardous site investigations, site assessments, feasibility  
3 studies, remedial programs, and corrective action plans and to carry out cleanup of hazardous  
4 sites. If no such bill is enacted into law at the 2006 session of the General Assembly, this  
5 Act shall not take effect.

6

**SECTION 3.**

7 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.