



Great Northern
Development Corporation
Wolf Point, MT 59201
www.gndc.org

Phone: 406-653-2590
Fax: 406-653-1840
Email: projectadmin@gndc.org

EMBC Brownfields Assessment Program FAQ

What is a Brownfields? A Brownfields property is defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” To determine the presence and type of contaminant at a property that is designated for redevelopment, an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is conducted. Examples of Brownfields sites include former gas stations or bulk plants, and commercial buildings with suspected asbestos tiles or lead based paint.

What are Eligible Activities and Who Pays? Eligible activities include Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. The Ph I report assesses the history of the site and outlines site uses that may have resulted in contamination on the property; the Ph II report includes an in-depth assessment of materials on the property to identify and quantify the presence of contaminants. Once the EMBC Steering Committee approves a project, the proposed assessment activities are reviewed and approved by EPA. These activities follow strict EPA guidelines and are conducted by an environmental professional selected by EMBC. Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC) – as the fiscal agent for EMBC – pays for all approved assessment activities.

What is EMBC? The EMBC steering committee oversees the Brownfields Assessment program for a 15-county region of Eastern Montana. EPA funds are awarded to GNDC, and GNDC is the responsible party for fiscal management, reporting, and carrying out of projects. The EMBC Steering Committee determines which projects receive grant assistance from the GNDC assessment award.

Who are EMBC Members? Southeast Montana Development Corporation, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, and GNDC. Each coalition member has two seats on the EMBC Steering Committee. Current steering committee members are:

SEMDC	Jim Atchison (SBDC Director), Monty Lesh
EPEDC	Beth Epley (EPEDC Director), Shanny Gion (SMART)
GNDC	Rex Phipps (Redwater Bank), Mike Leinen (Independence Bank)

What is the EMBC Region? The EMBC Brownfields Assessment program serves the following 15 counties: Custer, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, Wibaux, Garfield, McCone, Roosevelt, Valley, Daniels and Sheridan.

How Do I Apply for Assistance? Property owners can apply for assistance by contacting GNDC staff to discuss their project and complete a request for assistance form (also available at www.gndc.org). GNDC staff present the request for assistance to the EMBC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee determines the amount of funding awarded to each project. GNDC works with property owners to complete the assessment activities.

For more information, please contact the EMBC staff at (406) 230-2085.