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**DEP UNVEILS BROWNFIELD ACTION TEAM APPLICATION AS
NEXT STEP IN BROWNFIELDS ENHANCEMENT**

PHILADELPHIA: Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today announced that DEP will begin accepting applications from communities that want to take advantage of the Rendell administration's new Brownfield Action Team. This enhanced management approach will put DEP to work directly with local officials in Pennsylvania's cities, towns and boroughs to hasten the redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites.

"BAT is part of the Governor's commitment to create good jobs, revitalize our towns and cities, and clean up and protect the environment," Secretary McGinty said. "The sooner municipalities and economic development authorities apply, the quicker we can turn the environmental challenges we face today into the economic opportunities of tomorrow."

Secretary McGinty made announced while signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The MOA makes the state's Land Recycling Program a "one-stop shop" so sites remediated under the brownfields program also satisfy requirements for three key federal laws: the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly referred to as Superfund, and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Projects qualifying for BAT assistance receive a DEP project manager who provides one-stop-shopping for everyone involved locally in the project. BAT projects will receive expedited action on any permits needed for the environmental assessment and cleanup of the site, and they will get help from their project manager with funding and permit requests to other state agencies. The effort is geared toward sites located within recognized growth boundaries

that local leaders have identified as vital to community redevelopment and preservation.

Although authorities, developers and other interested parties may fill out applications, they must be submitted by a city, borough or township to ensure local support.

The BAT application is a simple two-page form that enables municipalities to highlight key aspects of a project, including: sponsoring organization or organizations; committed funding; confirmation that the site is a brownfield and whether it is in another targeted area, such as a Keystone Opportunity Zone; letters of support from local governments and other businesses or groups; and plans for redeveloping the site once it is cleaned up, including the projected number of jobs to be created and other measures of how the community will benefit from the project.

Pennsylvania has a significant track record of making environmental protection work for businesses and employees. Since the Land Recycling Program's inception in 1995, cleanups have been approved at more than 1,350 properties in 63 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, creating and/or retaining 30,000 jobs. Nearly 500 are listed for future remediation projects.

The Governor's proposed budget will provide \$40 million over four years to clean up brownfields and rebuild towns and cities across the Pennsylvania. The state has some 10,000 and 12,000 brownfield sites—some 100,000 to 120,000 acres of prime real estate—sitting vacant and ready for redevelopment.

For more information on the state's Land Recycling Program or to obtain an application for the Brownfield Action Team, visit the department's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Brownfields," or call 717-783-7816.

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