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## **ADEQ Director Steve Owens Announces \$38,963 Brownfields Grant to Flagstaff for Rio de Flag Site**

PHOENIX (Nov. 19, 2007) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens today announced that ADEQ is awarding a brownfields grant of \$38,963 to the City of Flagstaff to complete the second phase of an environmental site assessment on land located on Phoenix Avenue in downtown Flagstaff.

The grant is in addition to a \$50,000 brownfields grant ADEQ gave Flagstaff last year for the first phase of the environmental assessment on the site. The new grant brings ADEQ's funding for the project to nearly \$89,000.

The site consists of two pieces of land. One, located at 216 W. Phoenix Ave., requires no further assessment. The other, located at 116 W. Phoenix Ave., needs more assessment because of the potential presence of petroleum hydrocarbons, dioxins and other environmental contaminants.

In June, a contractor working on the site tried to take groundwater samples but struck shallow bedrock. The City of Flagstaff decided that it required more funding to complete the assessment and requested the additional funding from ADEQ.

The two parcels, located within the Rio de Flag floodplain, have experienced difficulties over the years because of area flooding. A five-acre area must be cleaned of suspected contaminants before flood-related issues can be addressed. The sites include a vacant lot, parking lot, warehouse, power plant, railroad spur lines and a storage yard and a wood preservation vat.

"We have been working closely with the City of Flagstaff on their efforts to develop this important downtown area," Director Owens said. "This funding will help the city complete the environmental assessment of the property and keep moving forward with this project. The purpose of our Brownfields Program is to help communities like Flagstaff identify and reduce environmental hazards and put properties like these back to productive use again."

A brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination.