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ADEQ, EPA to sponsor Brownfields workshops in Tucson, Mesa, Surprise and Safford in mid-September

PHOENIX (Aug. 25, 2009) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a series of Brownfields grant funding workshops will be held in Tucson, Mesa, Surprise and Safford in mid-September.

The free workshops, co-sponsored by Region 9 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will be conducted on the following dates and at the following sites:

- Sept. 14 at Surprise City Hall, Atrium Conference Room Second Floor, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 15 at City of Mesa Utilities Building Southeast Community Room, 640 N. Mesa Drive, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 16 at City of Safford Utility Offices Conference Room, 405 W. Discovery Park, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 17 at City of Tucson Community Services Center, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop, 9 a.m.

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with redevelopment potential that is blighted by environmental contamination, either real or perceived, typically from hazardous substances, petroleum products, pesticides, metals or asbestos. In addition to cleaning up the environment, the Brownfield program reduces urban sprawl, increases the tax base, encourages revitalization and creates jobs.

The workshops will help governmental entities apply for state and federal grants that will assist with site assessment and cleanup. EPA officials also will discuss new grant guidelines. Grant submittal deadline to the EPA is Oct. 16.

“Our Brownfields Program helps Arizona communities identify and reduce environmental hazards and put properties back to productive use again,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “These workshops will help put economic redevelopment and environmental restoration on the front burner.”

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