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## **\$9,100 Brownfields Grant Awarded for Asbestos Abatement to Begin Process of Renovating Historic Littlefield Schoolhouse**

PHOENIX (Feb. 4, 2014) – A \$9,100 Brownfields grant has been awarded for asbestos abatement in the historic Old Littlefield Schoolhouse in the northwestern Arizona community of Littlefield, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today.

The state response grant was awarded to the Littlefield Unified School District #9 in Mohave County and will be used for removing the hazardous material from the one-room schoolhouse so that it can be restored to its original state. Restoration plans call for turning the schoolhouse into a historical museum and meeting place for the community.

Removal of the hazardous materials will allow the school district to renovate the structure and provide a proper foundation, new roof, enlarged windows, and make the building handicapped accessible. The hazardous materials were identified in an asbestos survey that was performed in January 2013 and showed asbestos in the vinyl tile under the carpet and in the roofing tar.

“This is an excellent example of how our Brownfield money makes Arizona communities better,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “In this case, great benefits come from a limited investment of money.”

The museum will provide historical descriptions of settlers from the early 1900s who lived in the isolated Arizona Strip area north of the Grand Canyon. Built in 1924, the Littlefield Schoolhouse was constructed of adobe block with no foundation. Restoration plans include rebuilding a small stage that was once removed.

Many residents have already volunteered to contribute artifacts from their pioneer forefathers to be displayed in the museum area. Students were last taught in the schoolhouse in 1999.

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination. More information on Brownfields grants is available at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/cleanup/success.html>

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