



DATE: August 29, 2007

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Director Owens Announces \$50,000 Brownfields Grant to City of St. Johns in Apache County

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens today announced that ADEQ is awarding a \$50,000 Brownfields grant to the City of St. Johns in Apache County to perform an environmental site assessment of a five-acre former uncontrolled construction dump site where the City plans to expand its public cemetery.

The site is a vacant land parcel located immediately north of the City Yard facility at 405 West 4th North Street, near the current cemetery. The City has owned the site for more than 10 years. City officials said the city's public cemetery, where many of the northeast Arizona region's 19th Century settlers are interred, outgrew its original bounds long ago.

In June 2007, the City of St. Johns asked ADEQ for help evaluating the site for the presence of hazardous substances. The ADEQ grant is for a modified Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, which will determine if the site has been contaminated by the illegal dumping. ADEQ will oversee the site assessment.

“We are pleased to support this important effort by St. Johns to clean up this property and put it back into use for the benefit of the community,” Director Owens said. “We look forward to working closely with the City to address any environmental hazards that may exist at this site.”

A Brownfields site is an abandoned or under-used property that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination.