



BROWNFIELDS

Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. An outgrowth of the Superfund program, Brownfields initiatives have been undertaken since 1995 in an effort to revitalize urban areas. Many industrial sites remain idle because new owners do not want to expose themselves to the unending maze of liability from Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Voluntary cleanup is an expensive proposition, given the many unknowns of remediation. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfield Program provides funding for the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfield sites, and leverages public and private investments to help in these efforts. Once a site has been slated for redevelopment, construction contractors play a crucial role in remediating hazardous waste and developing sites for new industrial use.