



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

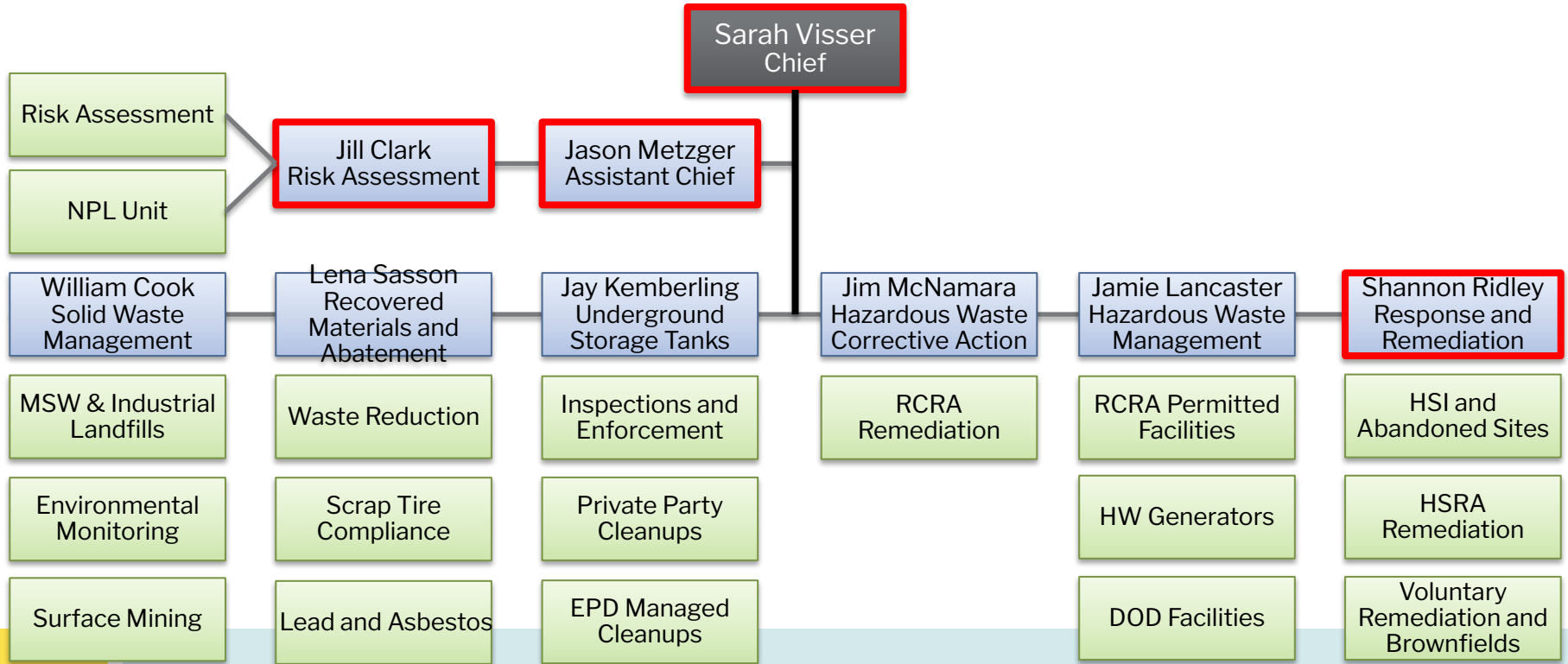
Land Protection Branch Update

Stephanie Horwitz, PE, CHMM

15th Annual Brownfield Seminar
Georgia Brownfield Association
April 2026



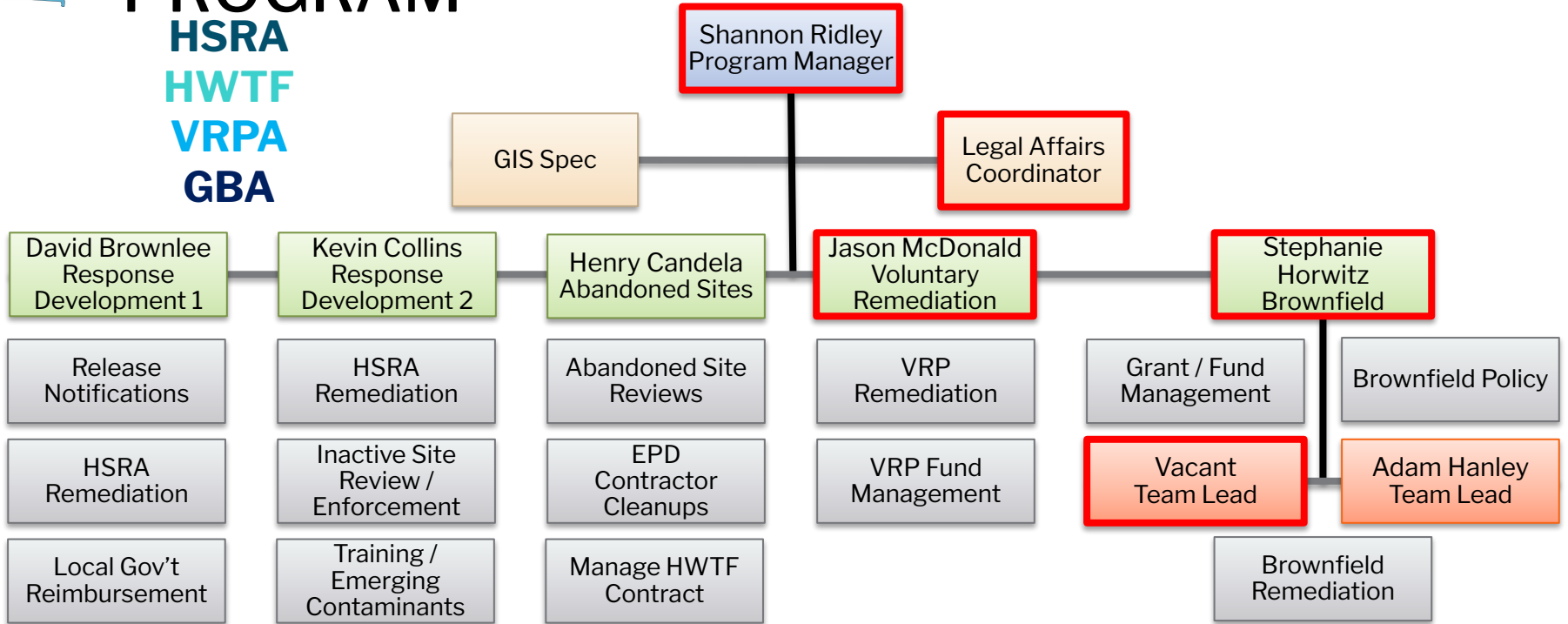
LAND PROTECTION BRANCH ORGANIZATION





RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION PROGRAM

HSRA
HWTF
VRPA
GBA





SOLID WASTE TRUST FUND



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Funded by \$1 Fee on each new replacement tire sold in Georgia
- Funds appropriated to EPD for the following Authorized Uses:
 - Scrap Tire Management and Abatement
 - Waste Reduction, Grants, and Litter Education
 - Abandoned Landfill Closure
 - Fund Administration



<https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/solid-waste>



SOLID WASTE TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM

Local government entities, public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions are eligible to apply and receive funding.

Two competitive grant tracks; Application period opens annually in August:

- Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant Program - Funds projects that reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. Awarded \$3.2M in FY25.
- Tire Products Grant - Funds the direct costs of incorporating tire-derived products (TDP) into projects that would otherwise use new or virgin materials, or for research to support innovative uses for TDP. Awarded \$1.7M in FY25.

One non-competitive grant track open year-round:

- Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Return - For details on how to apply visit <https://www.ecd.georgia.gov/resources/land-protection/abatement/recovered-materials/solid-waste-0> or visit local government websites. Awarded \$1M in FY25.



OTHER KEY ITEMS IN LAND PROTECTION

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) disposal permits

- Reviewed amendments to Federal CCR Rules and impacts to Georgia CCR Permitting Program
- Issued McDonough AP-2,3/4 permit in February 2026 – Closure in Place
- Draft permit for McDonough AP-1 released for 60-day public comment period
 - Virtual public meeting scheduled for May 5th
 - Public comment period began on April 7th and will end on June 8th
- 12 CCR permit applications under review

Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee

- Assist with drafting/revising guidance documents
- Members include regulated facilities, environmental groups, consultants, and EPD
- <https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pine>
- <https://epd.georgia.gov/ccr-permits>
- First meeting held on 8/25/25
- Completed first task: review and make revisions to 5-Year Permit Review Guidance



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Brownfield Program Update

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LPB TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

Vapor Intrusion Guidance Update

- Revised June 2, 2025.
- Majority of revisions are in a new Attachment A
 - Checklist of recommended items to include in a VI Report.

Georgia Risk Assessment Guidance (GRAG)

- January 12, 2026

Uniform Environmental Covenant Annual Reporting

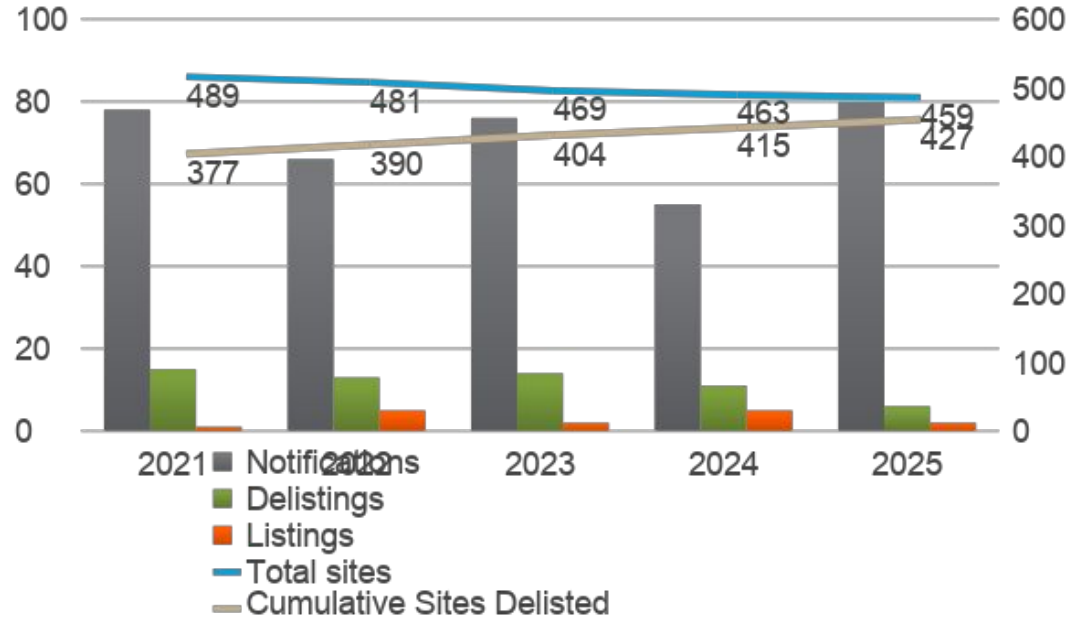
- New annual reporting requirement and tool



HAZARDOUS SITE INVENTORY

- SFY25 Notifications – 80
 - SFY26 Through Q3 - 37
- SFY25 Listings – 2
 - SFY26 Through Q3 - 0
- SFY25 Delistings – 12
 - SFY26 Through Q3 - 11
- Total Listed - 453
 - SFY26 Through Q3 - 442

SFY21-SFY25 Notifications / HSI Status





UNIT STRUCTURE / STAFFING

Vacant
Team Lead

Lucas Budny
Geologist

Todd Harbage
Engineer

Nikki Haborak
Geologist

John Salvino
Geologist

Qian (Quinn) Wang
Engineer

Stephanie Horwitz
Brownfield Coordinator

Maryam Ghavamian
Database Administrator

Adam Hanley
Team Lead

Farrell Barber Jr.
Engineer

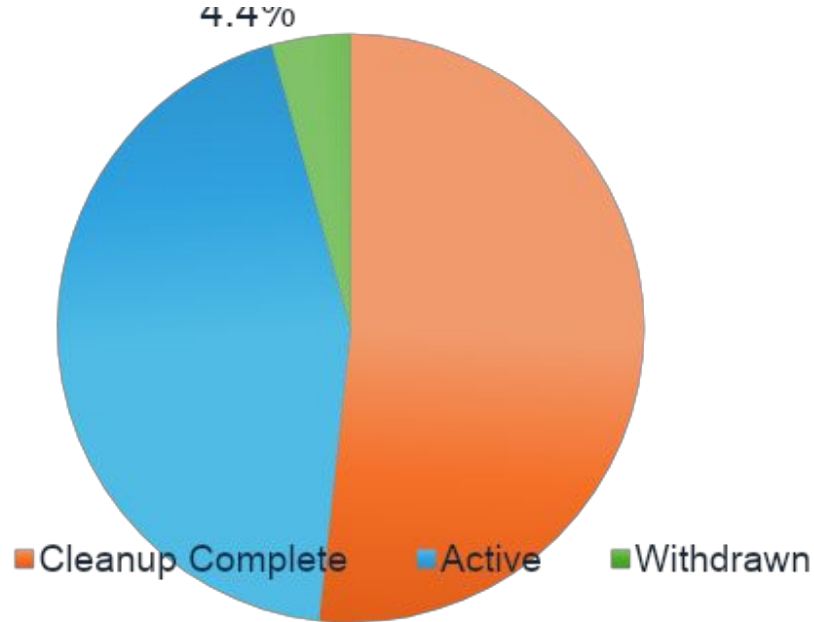
Kent Pierce
Geologist

Marion Plemons
Engineer

Jessica Yates
Geologist



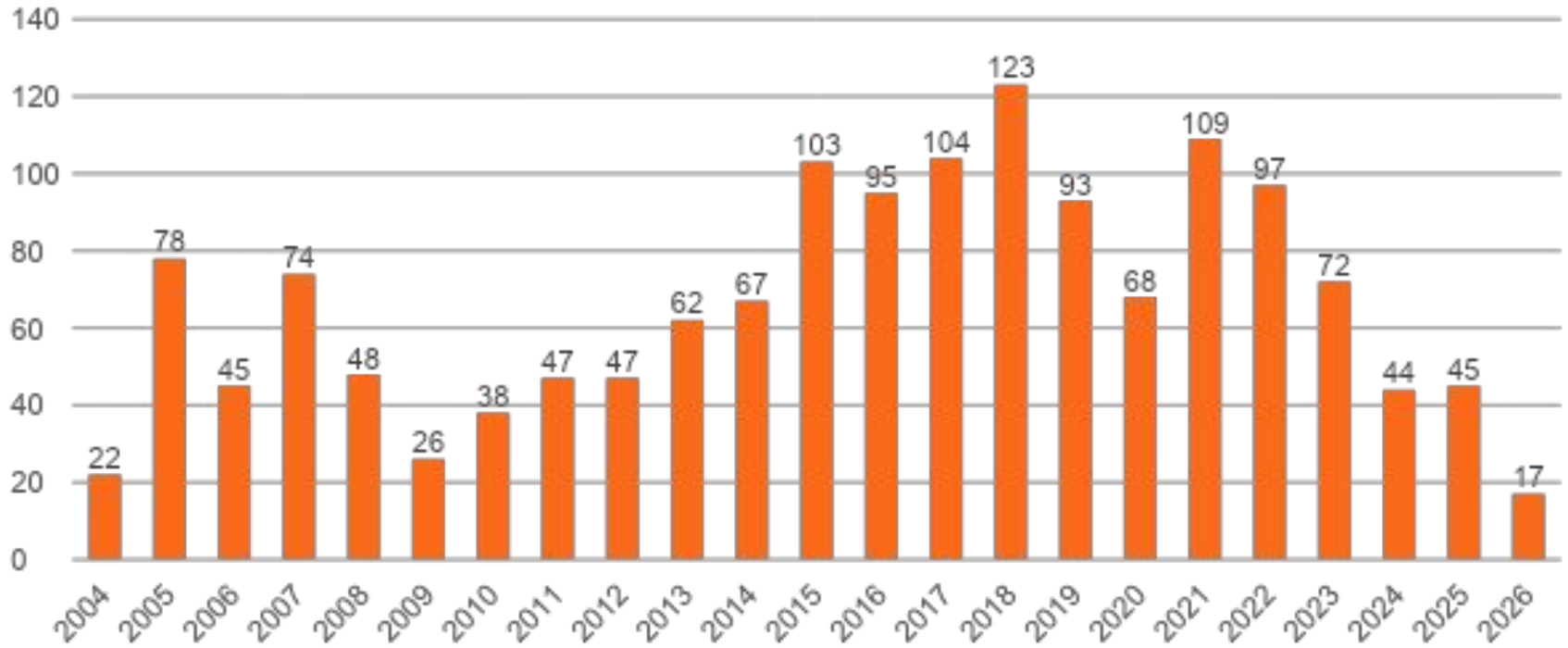
STATUS OF BROWNFIELD PROJECTS



- 1540 Total Applications
- Over 796 Cleanups Completed
- Over 675 Active Projects

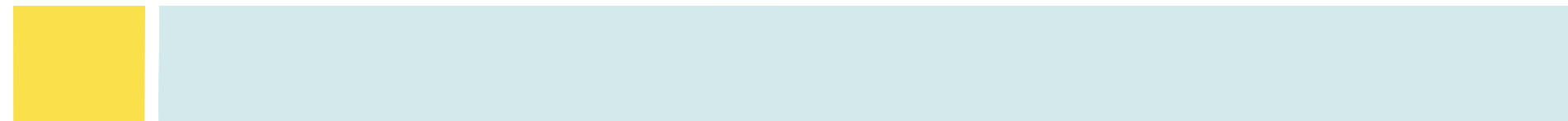
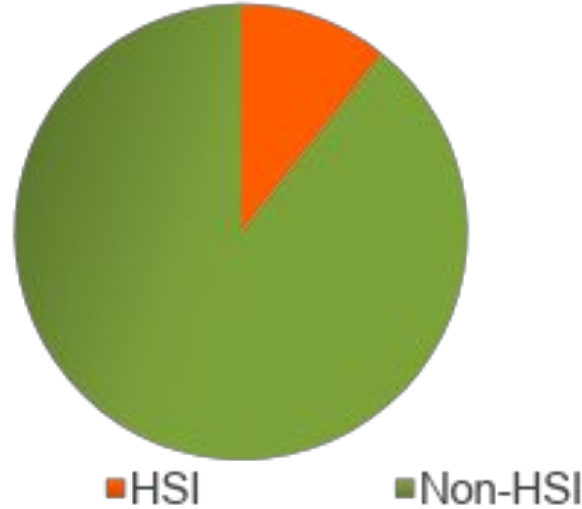


BROWNFIELD APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY YEAR



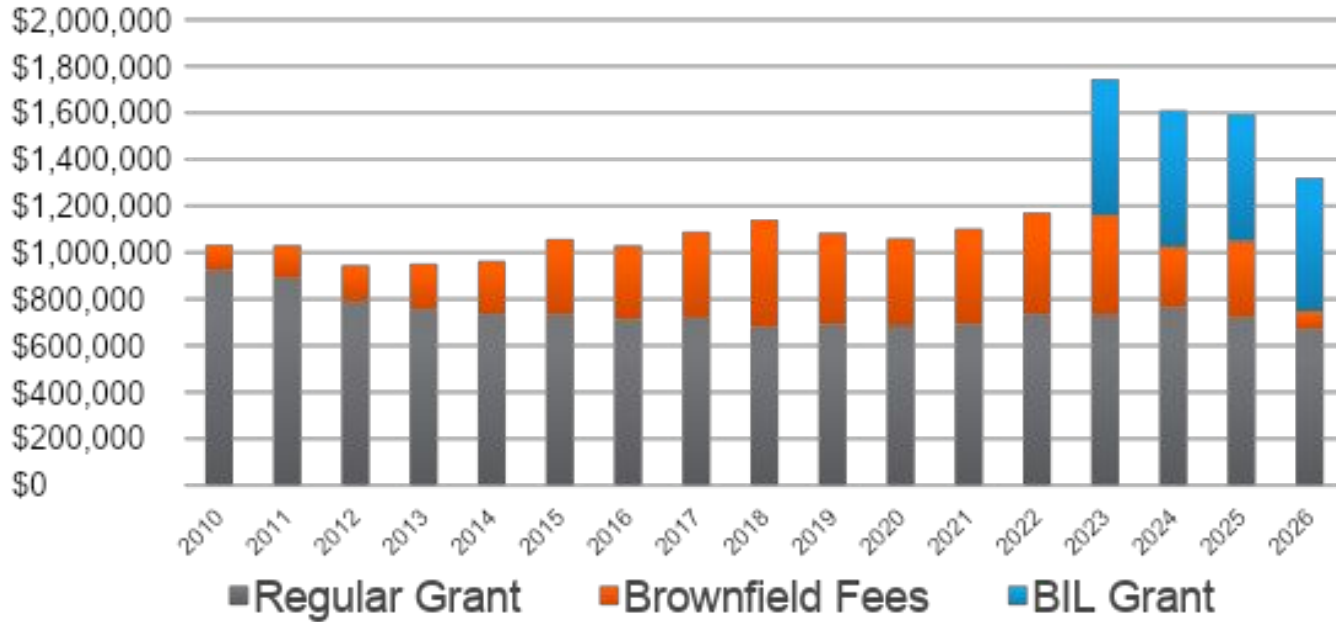


BROWNFIELD APPLICATION TYPES





HISTORIC FUNDING LEVELS





COST CERTIFICATIONS

- Remediation vs. Construction Costs
- Timing - No later than September 30 for approval before December 31
- Not all counties require receipt by December 31
- Submitted via e-mail
- Follow-up if not acknowledged



ONGOING OBLIGATIONS

- Type 5 soil remedies with Uniform Environmental Covenants
- Vapor Intrusion
 - Residential and VIMS Needed = UEC
 - Non-Residential and VIMS Needed =
Possible certification to Type 4 with MMP or UEC



ONGOING OBLIGATIONS - ANNUAL REPORTING

- For existing Brownfields with UECs, annual certification is one page in addition to form(s) in MMP.
- Submit via GEOS or using new tool (in development).
- Properties with UECs in both the Brownfield program and VRP will need to upload the same annual report to GEOS for both programs.



PFAS

- **Can be included in CAP as follows:**
 - Acknowledge potential for future regulation and desire to have PFAS included as COCs
 - Statement that once regulated Certification of Compliance will be submitted to extend LOL.
- **CAP approval letter will include a PFAS statement.**



MISCELLANEOUS REMINDERS

- **Do not include RRS for groundwater.**
- **You may include NCs for groundwater.**
- **Do not include RRS in CAPs unless:**
 - Needed as part of the CAP approval.
 - Qualified as draft/RRS approval not requested.
- **EPD provides guidance. Consultants provide the plan.**



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

Contact Information:

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