



Crosswalk between the Indiana Brownfields Program & IDEM’s Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP)

PROGRAM SIMILARITIES
Both programs can facilitate redevelopment of brownfield properties.
Both programs are voluntary.
Both programs currently utilize IDEM’s Remediation Closure Guide (RCG) 2012 closure levels as cleanup goals.
Both programs offer “closure” documents.

PROGRAM DIFFERENCES		
Goal of the Program	Brownfields Program’s main goal is to provide government assistance for the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment or reuse of properties to revitalize communities.	VRP’s main goal is to provide government oversight of privately conducted remediation projects. Such projects may be funded through the Brownfields Program.
Type of Program	Brownfields Program is a redevelopment program offering technical, financial and legal assistance at contaminated (or potentially contaminated) properties.	VRP is a remediation program that offers environmental liability protection at the successful conclusion of a project.
Type of Sites	Brownfields Program sites typically have no Responsible Parties and include abandoned industrial or commercial properties that local communities need assistance to redevelop.	VRP sites have a Responsible Party, or an entity who is otherwise willing to pay for the cleanup. Sites include industrial or commercial properties of any size that may be active or abandoned, and are seeking relief from environmental liability, often to facilitate a property transfer. Sites under enforcement action or that pose an imminent and substantial human-health threat are excluded from participation.

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PROGRAM DIFFERENCES		
Contractual Obligations	Brownfields Program requires no contract for program oversight. Grant and loan agreements are required for award recipients.	VRP requires a contract (Voluntary Remediation Agreement) between IDEM and the applicant before IDEM oversight begins. The VRA details the obligations of the VRP applicant and IDEM while participating in the VRP. Applications and any information about the site remain confidential until the VRA is signed. Liability protection begins when the VRA is signed.
Data Quality	Brownfields Program utilizes IDEM's RCG and does not currently require confirmatory and split sampling.	VRP utilizes IDEM's RCG and requires confirmatory and split sampling.
Remediation	Brownfields Program conducts oversight of assessment and remediation activities and requires reporting for program participants per IDEM's RCG.	VRP conducts oversight and requires documentation according to IC 13-25-5, which includes a formal public notice period.
Liability Protection	Brownfields Program offers Comfort Letters and Site Status Letters to address liability issues as appropriate, but does not provide a release from liability.	VRP offers a Certificate of Completion and a "Covenant Not to Sue" (CNTS) for sites that are remediated through VRP. A CNTS is a release from certain liabilities to the State for the scope of work conducted in the remediation work plan.

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