



### Ohio Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Grant

On February 4, 2016, The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) provided details on their new \$20 million Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Grant. This grant provides reimbursement funds up to \$500,000 for the cleanup of abandoned service station sites throughout Ohio.

To qualify for the grant, the site must:

- be vacant or contain an abandoned structure;
- have a documented petroleum release from a Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) regulated tank;
- not have a release caused by or contributed to by the applicant or property owner;
- have, or obtain, a Class C release designation through BUSTR\*--a Class C release means no one is financially available to cleanup the site; and,
- have an Ohio Voluntary Action Program Phase I Property Assessment\* conducted.

Eligible activities under the grant include: underground storage tank removal, environmental assessments, remediation of petroleum or hazardous substances (e.g., other chemicals, asbestos, lead-paint, or universal waste), building demolition and site preparation activities.

Web-based applications are expected to be available in mid-February of 2016. Each application is for a single site and the information provided will be scored by ODSA staff. Priority will be given to sites with the greatest environmental, community and economic impact. Funds will be awarded to public entities (e.g., county, municipal corporation, township, or port authority or an organization that owns publicly owned lands). Public entities do not need to own the property to apply; however, they will need to have an access agreement with the property owner and a plan for future property use. Developer partnerships with public entities are encouraged.

There are two ways to obtain funding from the Abandoned Service Station Grant:

### Fast Track Grants

Fast Track grants provide up to \$100,000 for assessment and cleanup activities in order to obtain BUSTR No Further Action (NFA) status. Some eligible activities include demolition, asbestos abatement, and site preparation activities. Fast Track applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed and funded as they are received.

### Competitive Round Grants

Competitive round grants will provide up to \$100,000 for assessment costs and \$500,000 for cleanup activities which include demolition, asbestos abatement, and site preparation. Applications are for single sites and for either assessment or cleanup. ODSA currently anticipates having two competitive rounds a year.

### How to Proceed

These funds are anticipated to go quickly. As such, applicants are encouraged to determine potentially eligible sites as soon as possible. Having a Class C release designation and a VAP Phase I are required in order to apply. These activities typically require 3-4 weeks to complete. If you are interested in discussing your potential site or getting our assistance with applying, please contact Jeff Paetz via email ([jeff@phoenixel.com](mailto:jeff@phoenixel.com)) or phone (614.746.2695).

\*Note: Phoenix can assist with these activities.