

# Introduction to Brownfields

# What Are Brownfields?

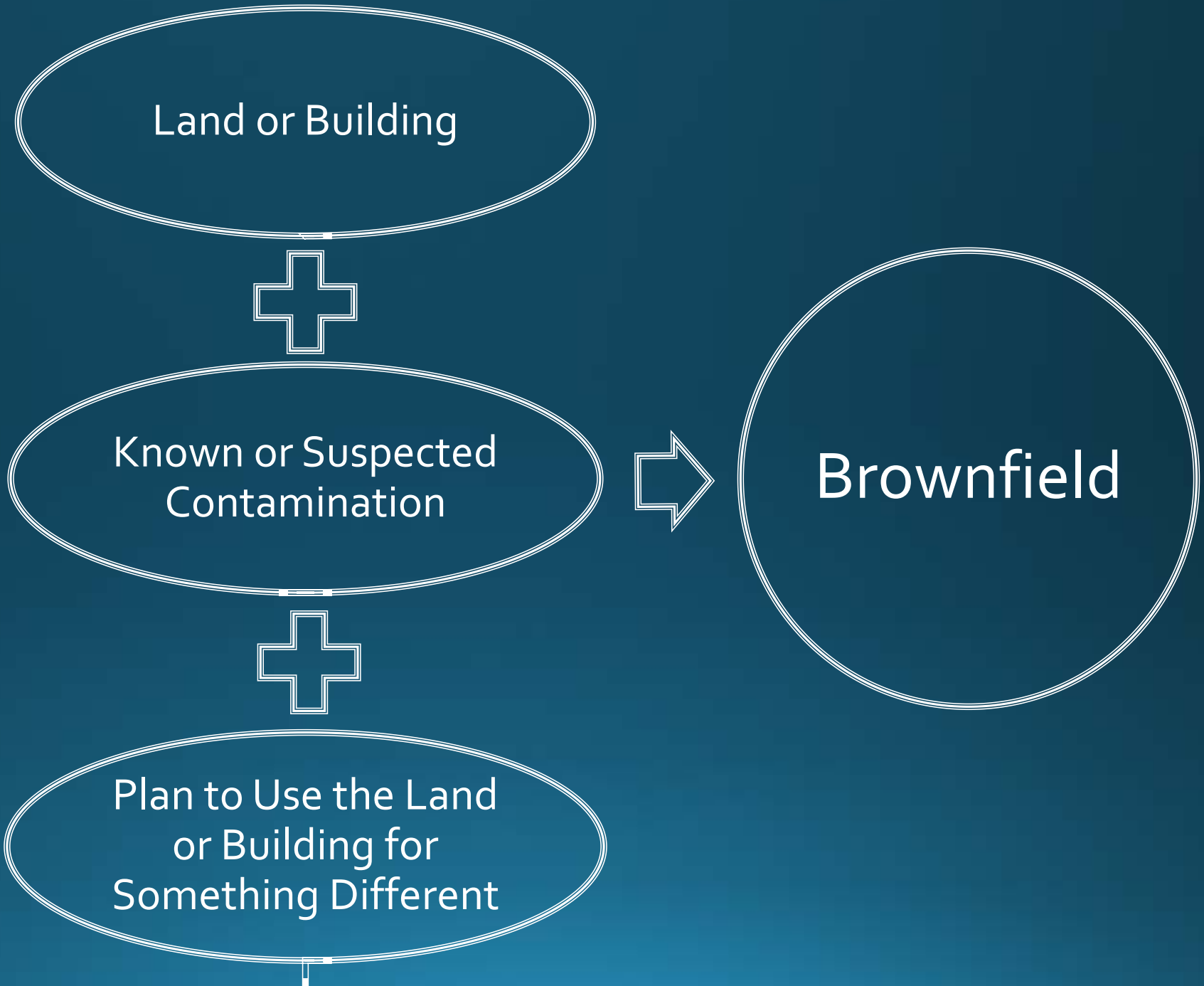
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## Definition:

Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

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# What Three Ingredients Make a Brownfield?



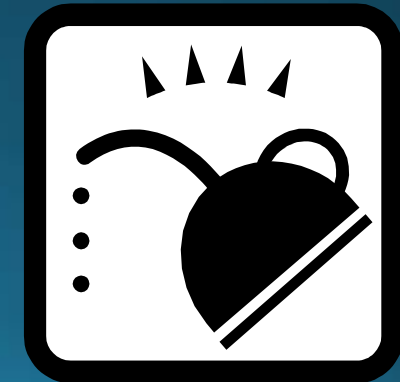
# What types of Alaskan properties could be brownfields?

- Abandoned tank farms
- Old BIA schools
- Abandoned canneries
- Former military sites
- Dump sites
- Former drycleaners
- Former gas stations
- Many more!



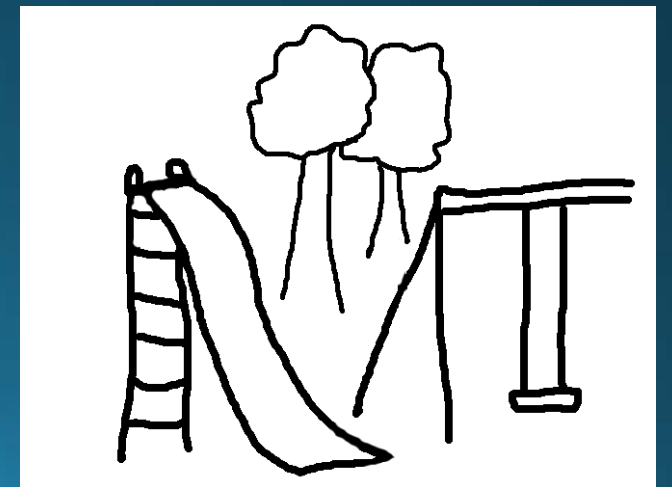
# What substances might contaminate Alaskan brownfields?

- Gasoline
- Diesel
- Asbestos
- Lead
- Solvents
- Pesticides
- Many more!



# What types of things could Alaskan brownfields be turned into?

- Community garden
- Tribal hall
- City offices
- Subsistence resources gathering area
- Playground
- Housing development
- Many more!



# Is it a brownfield?

Do you have a piece of land or a building?

Yes

Is it contaminated or potentially contaminated?

No

Not a brownfield!

No

Yes

Is there a plan to use the site as something else?

No

It's a brownfield!

Yes

# Are there brownfields in your community?

**Tununak – Former Tank Farm**



**Whittier – Former Army Barracks**



**Newtok – Old BIA School**



**Kwethluk – Burned Community Center**





# Why is it good to identify and reuse brownfields?

## Environmental Benefits

- Cleanup removes contaminants, protecting human health and the environment
- Cleanup lessens the likelihood of contaminants migrating off-site
- Keeps other land pristine by reusing land that was previously developed
- Can restore land so that it's safe for food production

# Why is it good to identify and reuse brownfields?

## Economic Benefits

- Reuse of existing structures helps keep costs down
- Reusing a brownfield can raise the value of neighboring properties
- Increased employment opportunities

# Why is it good to identify and reuse brownfields?

## Social Benefits

- Improves the health, safety and security of the community by getting rid of contamination and safety risks like condemned structures
- Creates opportunities for development (such as affordable housing) in core areas of communities
- Can provide opportunity for traditional lifestyle activities by restoring subsistence resources

# What resources are available for assessing and cleaning up brownfields?

## Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Brownfield Assessment & Cleanup Program

- Applications are accepted once a year, funding permitting
- Competitive process where applications are ranked against all others received within Alaska
- Services, not money, are awarded to successful applicants
- Services can include assessment and cleanup, and are free
- For more information call (907) 451-2166 or visit <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields.htm#assess>

# Brownfield Resources

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's)

## Targeted Brownfields Assessments Program

- Applications are accepted throughout the year
- Free services, not money, are awarded to successful applicants
- Assessment services can range from research of historic use of a site to taking samples to determine if the site is contaminated
- For more information call (206) 553-2594 or visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/brownfields/targeted+brownfields+assessments>

# Brownfield Resources

## EPA's Competitive Grants

- Applications are accepted once a year, funding permitting
- Grants are available for assessment and cleanup
- Applications compete for funding against all others submitted nationwide
- \$200,000 maximum award for assessment or cleanup; 20% match required from grant recipient for cleanups
- For more information call (800) 424-4372 or visit [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot\\_grants.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot_grants.htm)

# What's next?

## Identify Brownfields in Our Community

- We have to identify our brownfields before we can do anything about them. Please fill out a site survey form if you know of a brownfield that needs work, whether investigation, cleanup or reuse