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News Release

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Oklahoma Municipal League Receives Grant for Environmental Cleanup

A ceremony will be held at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 16, 2011, to award the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) a Brownfields cleanup grant from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The event will take place during OML's board meeting, and it will be held at 201 N.E. 23rd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Municipal League will use the grant to safely remove asbestos from a former office building so that it can be torn down to make room for a new training facility. OML will provide specialized training for municipal officers and employees. The training facility will aid local governments to function more efficiently and provide training on how to receive funds to improve communities.

Funding for these grants is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). DEQ's Brownfield Program received approximately \$1.9 million to issue grants and loans through its Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. The ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants are meant to finance eligible shovel-ready Brownfield cleanup projects, encourage redevelopment and create and/or preserve local jobs in communities across the state. The funds may be used toward the cleanup of properties contaminated by hazardous chemicals, petroleum or petroleum products, mine-scarred lands, and buildings containing asbestos and lead paint. Local governments and non-profit organizations are eligible for grants and loans; "for-profit" companies are eligible for low-interest loans.

DEQ will hold another Brownfields cleanup grant competition this year. Questions about the ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants and loans can be sent to oklahomabrownfields@deq.ok.gov.

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