

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **WCCOG Brownfields Program Seeks Input from the Public**

*Calais – December 8, 2009* - Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG) met last week with its Regional Brownfields Advisory Committee and environmental consultant to outline criteria for selection of brownfields sites for environmental assessment.

The goal of the WCCOG's Brownfields Assessment Program is to promote the re-use of properties where redevelopment is impeded by real or perceived contamination. "We're looking for candidate sites," explains Judy East, executive director of WCCOG, "where an in depth environmental assessment could further redevelopment efforts. They may be former mills, canneries, dry cleaner, auto repair shops... This Brownfields program provides funds for site assessments so that land-owners and developers understand what contaminants are present and what needs to be done to re-use the site."

The group is soliciting candidate sites from town officials, development organizations and members of the public. Sites will be selected for assessment based on a number of criteria including benefit to the community, availability of public infrastructure, and redevelopment potential, among others.

In May, 2009 WCCOG was awarded a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Under the USEPA Grant, WCCOG will work with willing and interested property owners where an environmental assessment may lead to successful redevelopment.

For more information about the Brownfields program or to submit a site for consideration, contact Judy East (454-0465) or Jeremy Gabrielson (255-0983).

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