



R01-26-A-020

Town of East Millinocket | 53 Main Street, East Millinocket, ME 04430 | (207) 746-3376 | www.eastmillinocket.org

**Town of East Millinocket, Maine – Application Information Sheet
USEPA FY26 Brownfields Assessment Grant Application
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-04**

(1) Applicant Identification: Town of East Millinocket, 53 Main Street, East Millinocket, Maine 04430

(2) Website URL: <https://www.eastmillinocket.org/>

(3) Funding Requested: a. Assessment Grant Type: Community Wide
b. Federal Funds Requested: \$500,000

(4) Location: a) East Millinocket, b) Penobscot County, and c) Maine

(5) Target Area and Priority Site Information:

Target Area: Downtown East Millinocket
Address of Priority Sites: a) 50 Main Street, East Millinocket, Maine 04430
b) Block 7, Lot 7, Main Street, East Millinocket, ME 04430

(6) Contacts:

a. Project Director:
Michael Michaud, Town Selectboard Member
53 Main Street
East Millinocket, ME 04430-1126
Telephone: (207)-746-3376
Email: selectmen1@eastmillinocket.org

b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official:
Clint Linscott, Town Selectboard Chair
53 Main Street
East Millinocket, ME 04430-1126
Telephone: (207)-746-3376
Email: selectmen2@eastmillinocket.org

(7) Population: Town of East Millinocket Population: 1,545



(8) Other Factors:

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	1, 4
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	5
The proposed brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	N/A
The proposed site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the proposed site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	1, 3, & 5
The proposed site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	1, 2, & 6
The reuse of the proposed cleanup site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	3
The reuse of the proposed cleanup site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	3
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	2, 5, & 6
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.(2), for priority site(s) within the target area(s).	8 & 9
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	N/A

(9) Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority:

An acknowledgement letter, dated January 7, 2026, from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection is attached to this Application Information Sheet

(10) Releasing Copies of Applications:

Not applicable; this application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information.

Attachments: Maine Department of Environmental Protection Acknowledgement Letter



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

January 7, 2026

Town of East Millinocket
Attn: Michael Michaud
53 Main Street
East Millinocket, ME 04430

Dear Michael Michaud:

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) acknowledges that the Town of East Millinocket (Town) plans to conduct assessments of brownfields sites and is applying for an FY26 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant.

The Town has developed an application requesting federal Brownfields Site Assessment Grant funding to assess Brownfields sites in the Town.

If the Town receives funding, the Department will assign project management staff to conduct eligibility determinations and provide review and comment on all assessments, workplans, quality assurance plans, and health and safety plans. For sites where cleanup is pursued, the Department’s Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP) staff will provide review and comment on investigation reports and remedial workplans, and will provide oversight, as necessary, of their contractor’s work at the properties. Upon successful completion of remedial activities at a property, the VRAP will provide protections from Department enforcement actions by issuing a Commissioner’s Certificate of Completion.

Please feel free to call me directly at (207) 215-8597 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Redmond
Department Brownfields Coordinator
Voluntary Response Action Program Manager
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management, Division of Remediation
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

cc: EPA Brownfields Region 1

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

Narrative / Ranking Criteria

(1) PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION & PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Target Area and Brownfields

1.a. Overview of Brownfields Challenges and Description of Target Area:

The Town of East Millinocket (**geographic boundary**), Penobscot County, Maine (**population 1,545, Census 2020**), is one of three towns that make up the Katahdin Region, and is known for its abundant forests, lakes, and mountains. Our Region's early industrial history dates to the 1900s with paper and wood product manufacturing in remote areas of dense forests and adjacent to power generating rivers. Unfortunately, the end of that thriving industry decades ago left behind a vast legacy of blighted, underutilized, and derelict Brownfields with many redevelopment challenges.

The **Target Area** identified for this grant is the struggling downtown commercial area along Main Street including the adjacent former Great Northern Paper (GNP) Mill, encompassing over 200+ acres along the banks and **within the designated floodplain of the Penobscot River** in downtown East Millinocket. In 1906, the GNP Mill was established as one of the region's largest employers (over 1,000 employees at its peak). During GNP's prosperous years, the Katahdin Region boasted one of the highest per capita incomes in the state. GNP represented 80% of the tax base, providing East Millinocket residents with extremely low property taxes.

However, after years of decline in the 1990s, GNP ultimately closed in 2014, causing devastating economic impact to the community. The last 212 jobs were lost, and the tax base was severely impacted. After more than a decade of the mill being idle, East Millinocket has experienced significant property value decline, population loss, and creation of blight at the mill and throughout downtown Main Street. The loss of GNP's tax base has caused extreme hardship on the Town's budget to maintain even basic community needs. Jobs remain sparse, and unemployment far exceeds the state average. Vacant businesses on Main Street are boarded up, and house foreclosures continue. The lack of economic diversity coupled with the town's geographic isolation has crippled the area. Penobscot County remains extremely rural with a density rate of 43.2 persons per square mile.

East Millinocket also has a high elderly population (23% of the population is over age 64), which is more vulnerable to contaminants and socio-economic issues. Children, another sensitive population, are extremely vulnerable to mill-related contaminants, which affect their development, creating long-term health problems. East Millinocket's birth rate for the last 12 months according to Towncharts.com was 2% and of those 2%, 100% were unwed teenage mothers. With this assessment grant, the Town will be able to evaluate and eliminate the health threats and environmental hazards associated with the Priority Brownfields Sites (noted below) within the Target Area. Mitigating contaminant exposure risks is one of many outcomes from the Brownfields program that will improve overall health, wellbeing, and quality of life for our underserved communities. In addition, this assessment grant will help prepare Brownfields sites for subsequent planned cleanup and redevelopment, as well as progressing towards our goal of improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and providing the community with prospects for new businesses and jobs.

1.b. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s): East Millinocket has already inventoried over 15 Brownfields sites in its community and the downtown target area, including old mill buildings, former industrial manufacturers, dry cleaners, automotive repair garages, dealers, and gas stations, restaurants, schools, banks, convenience stores, hospitals, laundromats, libraries, warehouses, vacant land parcels, and other abandoned and/or underutilized properties. In most cases, the extent of contamination is unknown. The following two priority sites have been initially identified for FY26 assessment activities.

Study Areas - Former Great Northern Paper Mill, 50 Main Street: The approximately 215-acre mill site, parts of which lie within the **designated floodplain of the Penobscot River**, was developed with over 60 buildings, constructed in multiple phases and facility expansions between 1906 and 1991. The Site buildings housed paper making machines and operations, paper mill support operations, smaller maintenance buildings, office buildings, warehouse buildings, train sheds, underground and aboveground bulk fuel oil, gasoline, and toxic chemical storage tanks, railcar loading and racks, hazardous waste storage, boiler operations, high voltage electric transformers, wastewater treatment plant, and former wood laydown areas associated with the former paper mill operations. A former biomass (wood chip) boiler was also utilized at the mill for energy efficiency. To assist in the evaluation of environmental conditions at this massive former mill site, the property was divided into seven "Study Areas", based on former mill operations and ease of organizing supplemental investigations, cleanup, and redevelopment. Several initial investigations to date on three of the Study Areas, including limited Phase II investigations under the EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program, have identified chlorinated solvents, metals (e.g., lead, chromium), petroleum products (e.g., fuel oils, lubricants, gasoline), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil, soil vapor, groundwater, and stormwater, along with hazardous building materials (e.g., asbestos, lead-based paint, and universal wastes) throughout the mill complex. PFAS contamination is now another potential contaminant of concern for the target area.

Public Safety Building Site (Block 7, Lot 7), Main Street: The approximate 3-acre vacant parcel is located between the GNP Mill, Log Road, and Katahdin Industrial Park on Main Street in downtown East Millinocket and was originally part of the former GNP Mill site at one time. Due to historical mill operations, undocumented spills or releases of hazardous substances may have occurred in the past. Urban fill and/or industrial fill materials may also be present, and contamination identified at the adjacent GNP Mill site

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may have impacted this parcel. The Town is currently looking to secure additional funding to acquire and construct a new Public Safety Building on this site. As such, assessment funding is critical to further evaluate environmental conditions at these priority sites.

1.c. Identifying Additional Sites:

The Town and its target area contain numerous additional brownfield sites requiring assessment, including former commercial buildings along Main Street with potential hazardous building materials (HBMs), given that structures in the area are among the oldest in the region and predate bans on lead-based paint (1978) and asbestos-containing materials. The Town will use grant funds for additional sites requiring assessment within the geographic boundary, if funds remain after addressing the priority sites. East Millinocket will notify the community of fund availability through the methods detailed in Section 2.g and encourage applications for brownfields funding. The Town has developed a site application and selection process through prior grants, utilizing criteria including site history, redevelopment plans, expected leveraged funds, approximate timeline, and whether the site serves underserved communities. Sites will be prioritized based on: (1) location within underserved communities; (2) greatest health hazards to sensitive populations; (3) high likelihood of redevelopment and developer interest; (4) projects providing community services such as **new jobs, affordable housing, social services, and childcare**; (5) alignment with the Katahdin Region Comprehensive Plan; and (6) potential to leverage additional funding for cleanup and redevelopment.

Revitalization of the Target Area

1.d. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans:

Selection of the priority sites reflects a reuse strategy focusing FY26 assessment grant funding on projects where planning has been completed and redevelopment vision has been developed. The Katahdin Region Comprehensive Plan (KRCP), 2020 *“aims to encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens, foster vibrant villages that enhance the region, and be a place that supports and attracts people of all ages. To seek new or expanded job opportunities to entice employment and people back to the Town to work and live. To create a high quality of living that will attract new residents.”* The assessment of Brownfields in the downtown target area including the proposed Public Safety Building priority site is conducive to these goals. In addition, the assessment, cleanup, and ultimate redevelopment of the GNP Mill and Public Safety Building priority sites and other downtown Main Street properties will align and support the KRCP goals of *“cultivating local jobs and a new regional economy; establish a premier four-season outdoor destination in New England; future-proof the region; create a walking area along the river and a canoe and kayak launch area; protect the gravel pack esker source of the East Millinocket water supply to remain viable into the future.”* Assessment of brownfields in the downtown target area is conducive to these goals.

East Millinocket has developed a conceptual business and comprehensive plan for the GNP mill priority site, which includes the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of the entire mill site in a phased approach. The ultimate goals of their business plan and the KRCP align with many of the anticipated Brownfield outcomes following the assessment and cleanup activities including creating new high-tech manufacturing business opportunities at the former mill site; reusing and revitalizing existing sound infrastructure; developing cleanup plans (e.g., engineering hardscape soil cover systems) and redevelopment plans (e.g., raised buildings above flood elevations) that are resilient to climate change; creating new or expanded higher paying job opportunities; enticing supporting businesses and employment along with people and new residents back to Main Street in the downtown target area; diversifying the economic base; developing affordable housing; and creating attractive working areas with recreational opportunities along the Penobscot River (Live, Work, & Play). This model also fits into the State’s recent focus using outdoor recreation to enhance quality of life and retention for residents and businesses through easily accessible recreational activities.

The ultimate goals of the Town’s business plan and the 2020 KRCP align with the anticipated Brownfield outcomes following the proposed assessment activities including creating new high-tech manufacturing business opportunities at the former mill site; reusing and revitalizing existing sound infrastructure; **developing cleanup and redevelopment plans that are resilient to extreme weather events with increased storm frequencies and intensities**; creating new or expanded higher paying job opportunities; diversifying the economic base; and enticing supporting businesses and employment along with people and new residents back to the Town. The assessment, cleanup, and ultimate redevelopment of priority sites and other downtown Main Street properties will align with and support the KRCP goals of: cultivating local jobs and a new regional economy; establishing a premier four-season outdoor destination in New England; future-proofing the region; creating walking areas along the river and canoe/kayak launch areas; and protecting the gravel pack esker source of the East Millinocket water supply.

During the development of the 2020 KRCP, the participating towns actively encouraged participation from their residents. A committee of individuals from each town, representing also the underserved populations, regularly met to collect and review information for the plan and held four public meetings for the public to review and voice support or concerns for the plan. In addition, and importantly, the Town acquired the former GNP mill following an agreement ratified by a 44-0 vote at a special town meeting held on May 14, 2020. Through this participation, the community residents have signaled their strong support for the revitalization of the former GNP mill.

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1.e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy:

Spur Economic Growth in the Target Area: Reuse of priority sites will spur economic growth in the target area, encouraging new businesses to locate to the downtown target area corridor. Revitalizing brownfields has been proven to increase property values by as much as 15%, creating expanded tax base for the community. Assessment and cleanup will create new jobs within walking distance of low-income residents, linking residents to commerce and recreation.

Provide Affordable Housing: East Millinocket has underserved populations suffering from low-income jobs, high unemployment, and substandard housing dating from 1900 to present. Assessments will provide necessary data to cleanup and redevelop sites for productive reuse, including affordable workforce and senior housing to address the area's housing shortage.

Create Jobs and Stabilize Employment Base: East Millinocket has underserved populations suffering from low-income jobs and high unemployment and substandard housing that dates from 1900 to the present. EPA estimates up to 10.3 jobs are leveraged for every \$100,000 in Brownfield grant funding expended on assessment and cleanup. The expansion of Home Grown Fuels' manufacturing operations in 2027 at the GNP Mill site will create an estimated additional 25 well-paying full-time jobs for the area. Returning Brownfield sites to productive use will restore a critical employment base and create new commercial, retail, and specialty jobs, restoring critical tax revenues.

Support Adaptive Reuse and Energy Efficiency: Adaptive reuse projects will promote historic preservation, natural resource preservation, infill development, and sustainable building design. East Millinocket will encourage reuse of priority sites utilizing energy efficient building practices and renewable energy methods. **Redevelopment of the GNP priority site will likely include reactivating the bio-mass boiler for renewable energy. The proposed biomass facility will provide much-needed low-cost green energy,** ensure future resilience to fossil fuels, and withstand the effects of higher energy costs for the community. In addition, the proposed new construction and site development will incorporate **modern energy-efficient building components and utilities, as well as rooftop solar panels.**

Resiliency: The GNP Mill priority site abuts the Penobscot River. Development of properties adjacent to waterways will incorporate green design, floodable green space, and stormwater management enhancements. Cleanup and redevelopment plans will incorporate resilient design features including raised buildings above flood elevations to address climate change impacts.

Reduce Environmental Risk: Assessments of our proposed GNP Study Areas and Public Safety Building target sites will provide the necessary environmental data to clean up and redevelop these sites and return them to productive reuse. Exposure to environmental contamination and its associated environmental risks will be mitigated and will improve the health of our underserved communities. Blight resulting from the vacant, abandoned main mill buildings will also be eliminated.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse:

East Millinocket and strategic partners are eligible and experienced with leveraging funding from a variety of public and private sources. The following resources will be pursued to advance reuse of sites assessed with FY26 EPA Grant funds:

- **Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP):** Provides liability protections and technical assistance for brownfield assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.
- **Maine Housing:** Offers COVID-19 Rent Relief Program and funds to assist in mitigation of lead-based paint, with priority for residences where children have elevated blood lead levels.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Federal funding for eligible activities including housing rehabilitation, infrastructure, and economic development.
- **Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC):** Will assist with federal processes and provide access to EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for cleanup financing.
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA):** Regional representatives will assist with federal funding opportunities for infrastructure and economic development.
- **Pine Tree Development Zone (PTDZ) Program:** Offers eligible businesses reduction or elimination of state taxes for up to ten years, including elimination of sales and use tax and corporate income tax credits.
- **New Market Tax Credits:** Available for projects in economically distressed communities through certified Community Development Entities such as Acadia Capital Management.
- **EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant:** Will be potentially pursued for sites requiring remediation following assessment.

A biomass company is dedicated to developing a portion of the priority GNP Mill site with a proposed \$40M to \$50M private investment. The area encompassing the former paper machine buildings at the GNP Mill site is also targeted for a \$1M to \$2M expansion of Home Grown Fuels manufacturing operations, an existing tenant of mill property. In addition, the Town has secured a

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\$750,000 Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) 2023 Catalyst Grant award, \$5M in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) in the FY24 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, and another pending \$5M CDS in the FY26 THUD appropriations bill (likely be passed and signed before end of February 2026), all through the support of Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, which will be used to further support reuse and redevelopment of the Target Area including the GNP Mill priority site. Previously, the Town secured THUD CDS awards of \$2.8M and \$1.6M to support reuse of the GNP Mill.

1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure:

The proposed projects support infill development activities that minimize sprawl into rural areas and promote adaptive reuse of vacant and underutilized structures. Our Target Area also has infrastructure in-place to support our Brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment strategies. East Millinocket already has a full array of existing and adequate infrastructure in the downtown target area along Main Street, including: public water (servicing 861 connections from three shallow gravel-packed groundwater wells); public sewer (the former GNP wastewater treatment facility was converted to replace the Town's system); electric service throughout the entire town with three-phase high voltage electric supply at the priority GNP Mill site; and the Town recently converted and upgraded the GNP wastewater treatment facility to replace its previous system.; high-speed internet (the Katahdin Region Broadband Utility has secured funding to expand high-speed internet throughout the region); and commercial railway service vital to growing the region's economic health.

East Millinocket is also developing green infrastructure in the redevelopment of the downtown Main Street corridor, including a Riverwalk along the Penobscot River and connecting pedestrian trail system to Main Street. Nearly all priority sites have existing structures that the community wants to preserve and renovate for reuse, requiring the least investment in infrastructure while preserving unique architectural character and history.

(2) COMMUNITY NEED & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Community Need

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding:

The proposed Target Area is East Millinocket, a low-income, micro-community with a **population of 1,545 (US Census, 2020)**. **The Target Area includes some of the most impoverished and disadvantaged residents in Penobscot County and the State.**

Poverty is reflected in the area's employment data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2020. Median household income in East Millinocket is \$44,306, significantly lower than that of Penobscot County (\$66,248) and Maine (\$71,773). Similarly, East Millinocket also has a greater percentage of its population with household incomes below the Federal Poverty Level (18.5%) compared to percentages in Penobscot County (13.5%) and the State as a whole (10.8%). Disparities are even greater for vulnerable school-aged children (ages 5 to 17) and adults aged 60 and older, who are nearly 75% more likely and more than twice as likely, respectively, to be in poverty than their cohorts in the State. Additionally, 43% of the population of East Millinocket is considered low-income (household income below twice the poverty level), a rate nearly two-thirds higher than that of the State of Maine.

From 2013 to 2023, labor force participation in East Millinocket declined 10.6%. In 2023, East Millinocket's unemployment rate was 5.4%, 30% higher than both Penobscot County (4.1%) and the State (3.9%). Redevelopment opportunities, like those proposed by use of the requested USEPA Assessment Grant funds, are needed to create good paying jobs in this impoverished area.

Job loss has driven population decline in East Millinocket, where the population shrunk by nearly 40% since 1970. In contrast, Penobscot County's population increased by more than 20% over the same period, while Maine's population grew by 6.9%. Population decline, along with decreased labor participation rate and closure of GNP Mill, has contributed to a significant decline in the share of employed persons in the manufacturing industry. From 2013 to 2023, East Millinocket's manufacturing employment sustained a decline of 81.5%. East Millinocket has been designated as an Opportunity Zones (OZ). An OZ is an economically distressed communities, defined by Census tract, nominated by governors, and certified by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. OZs have experienced a lack of investment for decades. This designation underscores the need for investment in the community.

East Millinocket has proposed a phased redevelopment of former GNP mill to assist in achieving the socioeconomic, health, and welfare goals of its comprehensive plans. The Town, who took over control and ownership of the massive former GNP mill and is continuing to develop a long-term environmental and economic business plan for this property, does not have additional resources to assess, cleanup, and/or redevelop Brownfields. Unfortunately, as a small town with a high proportion of low-income individuals, East Millinocket lacks the capacity to fund environmental assessment, remediation, and reuse. Without this assessment grant funding, it is feared that the situation in the community will only continue to worsen.

2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations:

In addition to enduring poverty and a declining population, East Millinocket residents bear environmental, health, and welfare burdens. A dense residential, low-income neighborhood, immediately across from the former GNP Mill site, contains many of the

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most vulnerable populations (low income, children, elderly, no health insurance, disabled, and youth with developmental disabilities) that are negatively impacted by environmental issues and lack of economic opportunity. This assessment grant will reduce these threats to the welfare of many sensitive populations by implementing the assessment and cleanup planning and facilitating the projected cleanup and site reuses, which will generate positive outcomes and benefits. This challenging dynamic underscores the need for USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funding.

Health disparities burden the community. According to data from CDC's PLACES, the countywide, the prevalence of diabetes and chronic heart disease are, respectively, at the 67th and 95th percentile nationally. Cancer and asthma rates are also high (CDC's EJI Explorer). These chronic conditions are associated with socioeconomic disadvantages and limited access to preventive care. East Millinocket residents also experience a relatively high incidence disability, with nearly one-in-four residents disabled, nearly 50% higher than the State's rate and at the 92nd percentile nationally.

The assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of the priority sites will create a healthy environment, attract new businesses, and achieve economic stability in the community. In turn, this will increase jobs, increase property values, reduce poverty, and increase population in our identified Target Area, providing greater economic opportunity for sensitive populations. Further, assessment and cleanup of the sites will prevent exposure to site contaminants and improve health outcomes for the population.

2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions:

Both, the likelihood that a housing unit contains lead paint, as well as the concentration of lead in the paint that was used, varies directly with the age of the structure. According to the U.S. Census, 68.2% of the Target Area's structures were built prior to 1970, which is before the banning of lead paint in 1978. Lead exposure is particularly associated with damage to the brain and nervous system, impaired growth, and learning and behavioral issues, along with harming cardiovascular health, kidneys, the immune system, the blood system, the reproductive system, and development. Unborn and young children are especially susceptible to the effects of high lead levels, with increased risk for lower IQ scores, impaired academic performance, and behavioral problems. Approximately 22.7% of East Millinocket's population is under 18, underscoring the heightened risks to the community from lead.

Residential energy profiles indicate an unusually high reliance on fuel oil and other delivered fuels for home heating, a pattern that mirrors broader county and state energy characteristics and underscores community vulnerability. Town-level census estimates show that roughly 76.6% of households in East Millinocket depend on fuel oil or kerosene as their primary heating source, far exceeding the rate of Penobscot County (57.2%). Use of these fuels for home heating and cooking can exacerbate asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), particularly in elderly and sensitive populations. As mentioned, the area has a high rate of asthma, relative to the U.S., as a whole.

These statistics demonstrate that residents are disproportionately impacted compared to the State and suggest that the higher rates of these health conditions are attributable to exposure to contaminants resulting from Brownfields in the Target Area including the former GNP Mill. This assessment grant and testing for soil and groundwater contamination (e.g., volatile organic compounds, lead, chromium, PCBs), lead-based paint, asbestos-containing materials, radon, and gasoline vapors and comparing results to MEDEP risk-based guidelines will help to reduce these threats by removing and/or limiting exposure to the contamination at the identified Brownfields priority sites and improve the health of our underserved communities.

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations:

As mentioned in Section 2a, the grant and reuse strategy will directly address economic challenges and environmental burdens faced by the community, which has a median income of just 62% of the State's median. With more than 40% of the population living in low-income households, increasing economic opportunity is critical to the community's future. With low incomes, internet access is limited, with East Millinocket ranking at the 85th percentile nationally for lack of access, limiting online educational and job opportunities.

The Penobscot Indian Nation also lies across the Penobscot River from the target area. Given the proximity, the assessment of Brownfields and associated outcome of economic prosperity of East Millinocket would indirectly benefit the Tribe. The Penobscot Indian Nation's reservation comprises some 200 islands in the Penobscot River, the most populated of which is Indian Island, home to approximately 550 tribal members, with an additional 1,661 tribal members living off reservation, many in close proximity to Indian Island. According to the **Penobscot Indian Nation Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2024 to 2029**, although the proximity to Bangor offers more economic opportunity for the Penobscot, the Tribe has not realized those opportunities and still experiences economic distress, high unemployment, and low educational attainment.

These data show that the population in the target area of East Millinocket, an extremely rural and remote area in the State of Maine, is clearly disproportionately impacted, underserved, and overburdened by both environmental and socioeconomic impacts when compared to other regions of the State and the US.

The assessment and alignment with reuse strategies of the priority sites to support new development within the Target Area and their anticipated outcomes (new industries/workspaces, job creation, reducing exposure to contamination, and **resilience to**

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extreme weather events) will help the disproportionately impacted populations. These facilities will minimize or eliminate contact with impacted soil/water/air, **providing storm resiliency near the river flood plain**, and providing economic opportunities/desirable space for investors and businesses. Through the assessment grant, the Town will prioritize the safety and rights of the region's sensitive populations and recognizes that the fundamental goals of the cleanup/redevelopment are to reduce threats to the identified populations in the target area and provide a safe, clean environment where all residents can thrive.

Community Engagement

2.e. and 2.f. Project Involvement & Project Roles:

Name of organization/ entity/group	Entity's Mission	Point of contact (name & email)	Specific involvement in the project or assistance provided
East Millinocket Industrials (EMI) Board*	Oversee and promote the redevelopment of the former GNP mill	Marie Hernandez, COO [REDACTED]	EMI is undertaking the redevelopment planning efforts at the former GNP mill site and will assist in public outreach and advise on reuse potential and redevelopment planning in the Target Area.
Katahdin Region Development Board (KRDB)*	Promoting resources, community events and engagement within the Katahdin Region.	Chares Pray, President [REDACTED]	KRDB will assist with the planning, assessment, cleanup, and development of the priority sites. They will also assist with public outreach.
Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC), Rural Development Initiative (RDI)*	Transforming the lives and empowering the communities in the Katahdin Region.	Deb Rountree, Executive Director of Rural Development Initiatives, dvoisine@maine.edu , 207-746-5741	EMCC's RDI will assist with community outreach, public education, identifying sensitive populations, and connecting residents to job opportunities, job training, higher education, and childcare. Additionally, they will focus on building relationships with local businesses and organizations.
Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority (MRLBA)	Assist local governments and organizations to accelerate the redevelopment of abandoned, environmentally hazardous, and functionally obsolete sites in Maine.	Tuck O'Brien, Executive Director, tobrien@maineredevelopment.org , 207-553-0255	MRLBA, as a new state entity, will provide supplemental technical assistance or grant funding management to in connection with the proposed assessment and cleanup projects and other redevelopment initiatives in the Target Area and at the GNP mill.

Each of the partner organizations noted above will play important role in the overall decision-making processes associated with the proposed assessment projects. In addition, the partner organizations and a hired Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP), will serve on our Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC).

2.g. Incorporating Community Input: The Town will use the following tools, which have been successful in past outreach efforts:

- **Websites and Fact Sheets:** East Millinocket's and EMI website will maintain a Brownfields section with postings for public meetings, meeting minutes, project updates, and reports, which will continued to be regularly updated. We will ensure partner community organizations will also have information or links on their websites.
- **Information Repository:** East Millinocket office serves as the location for hard copies of all program-related documents for review by the public.
- **Public Meetings:** Public meetings will be held at key project milestones to communicate the progress of the assessment projects. Meetings will be co-hosted with partner community organizations (COs), noted above, and held outside of normal working hours to increase attendance.
- **Email & Newsletters:** The Town and its project partners will utilize their respective e-mail networks, print and e-newsletters to announce and promote the program, provide regular updates, solicit input, advertise meetings, and disseminate outcomes.
- **Newspaper Releases:** Announcements, press releases and public notices will be published in newspapers.

We consider all input, because these assessment projects are for the benefit of our community, and will respond to requests and comments using these methods, along with direct written responses, as necessary.

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(3) TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, & MEASURING PROGRESS

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

3.a. – 3.d. Project Implementation, Anticipated Project Schedule, Task/Activity Lead, and Outputs:

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight
a. Project Implementation: <i>EPA-funded tasks/activities:</i> The Town of East Millinocket will continue where it left off with its FY23 Assessment Grant and will conduct programmatic oversight of its Brownfields Assessment Program. Based on a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, selection of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP). Reinvigorate East Millinocket's Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC). Attend at least two EPA National Brownfields Training Conferences and/or regional EPA/MEDEP training seminars. Perform general program management and communication with regulatory personnel, community officials, and the public. Track progress through performance and financial reports, quarterly reports, and updates to EPA's Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) online database. Ensure that EPA Cooperative Agreement requirements are met. <i>Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable:</i> None.
b. Anticipated Project Schedule: RFP and selection of the QEP and re-establish the BAC within the first 3 months (1 st Quarter) of funding award; BAC meetings, quarterly reports, and ACRES database updates on a quarterly basis during the 4-year grant period.
c. Task/Activity Lead: Town staff will lead all programmatic grant activities. The Town will develop an RFP for QEP selection and will re-establish the BAC. The QEP will prepare and perform quarterly reporting, ACRES updates, and assist with grant forms.
d. Outputs: Competitive RFP and contract for QEP selection; meeting agendas/minutes for BAC meetings; 16 quarterly reports (one/quarter for four years); ongoing ACRES input/updates, and federal financial reports over 4-year grant period of performance.
Task 2: Community Outreach & Engagement
a. Project Implementation: <i>EPA funded tasks/activities:</i> In conjunction with the community input program described in section 2.g. above, the Town, its QEP, and its local community organization partners will: issue e-mails and e-newsletters; create and distribute flyers; update the Brownfields Assessment Program informational brochure; develop an information repository; issue news releases; update websites with program information, community input, and responses; hold public program information meetings and site-specific public information meetings; facilitate BAC meetings; and develop public notices and service announcements. Additionally, they will also: notify residents, adjacent landowners, and target communities of public meetings and assessment schedules; and update the target communities regarding assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities. For each brownfield site, site-specific outreach, public meetings, and communications with the community will be conducted during a key milestone in the assessment process, such as after Phase II assessments and following development of cleanup and/or reuse plans, to be able to present key findings to target communities and property owners. Public meetings will be held in-person and via Zoom or Teams. <i>Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable:</i> None.
b. Anticipated Project Schedule: Updated informational brochure, public notices/service announcements, and first public program information meeting to take place and/or /be completed within the 2 nd quarter of the grant period, after selection of the QEP. Remaining community engagement activities and public meetings following key assessment milestones (e.g., Phase II ESAs) will occur throughout the remainder of the grant's four-year period.
c. Task/Activity Lead: The Town, QEP, BAC, and local community partners, will conduct community outreach and engagement activities. <i>The Town will provide additional community engagement and economic development support at no cost to the grant.</i>
d. Outputs: Updated informational brochure and websites, public notices/service announcements, two public program information meetings, information repository, site-specific public information meetings, and meetings with site owners and BAC (as needed).
Task 3: Site Selection and Phase I and Phase II Assessments
a. Project Implementation: <i>EPA-funded tasks/activities:</i> With its prior assessment grant work, the Town of East Millinocket already has identified priority sites, inventoried new potential brownfields sites, and routinely receives calls from site owners, developers, and prospective purchasers regarding new applications to the program. The Town already has a site assessment application and established site selection criteria, used for prioritizing sites including the location of sites with respect to target areas, developer interest, need for assessment and cleanup, redevelopment potential, community benefits, and alignment with local reuse and revitalization plans and disadvantaged populations. BAC meetings will be conducted on a quarterly basis and/or when site assessment applications are submitted. <i>Priority Sites:</i> EPA eligibility and Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) for the two priority sites (New Study Areas of the GNP Mill site at 50 Main Street and proposed Public Safety Building site on Main Street) will be completed; these sites within the target area will also be prioritized for supplemental Phase II assessments, due to their pending real estate sale and redevelopment plans. <i>Non-Priority Sites:</i> For each new site, an EPA Brownfields Assessment Site Eligibility Form will be completed for EPA's approval (hazardous substance sites) or a petroleum eligibility determination from MEDEP (petroleum sites) and up to eight additional non-priority sites are anticipated to be selected within the target area for assessment, based on site selection criteria noted above. For each of the

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additional eight non-priority sites, the QEP will conduct a Phase I ESA in accordance with the ASTM International Standard E1527-21 and EPA's "All Appropriate Inquiry" standards.

Priority and Non-Priority Sites: For each site, a Site-Specific Quality Assurance Project Plan (SSQAPP), and a Phase II ESA with a Hazardous Building Materials Inventory (HBMI), if applicable, in accordance with ASTM E1903-19 or equivalent, will be completed. These reports will consist of a summary of "recognized environmental conditions" (RECs), evaluation of contamination, QEP opinions regarding site conditions, and recommended follow-up investigations and/or activities. The assessment documents will be submitted to EPA and MEDEP for review and approval. Access agreements for each site will also be obtained.

Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable: None.

b. Anticipated Project Schedule: EPA eligibility approvals will be obtained for each proposed site prior to beginning each assessment. Phase I ESAs and/or Phase I ESA Updates, SSQAPPs, and Phase II ESAs/HBMIs for the priority sites will be completed within the first 6-12 months of grant award. Phase I ESAs, SSQAPPs, and Phase II ESAs/HBMIs for non-priority sites will be completed during years 2 and 3 of the four-year grant period.

c. Task/Activity Lead: The Town of East Millinocket will coordinate quarterly meetings with the BAC and QEP. Upon approval by the Town and its BAC, QEP will obtain site eligibility for each site. QEP will conduct site-specific assessments of the priority and non-priority sites with direct oversight by the Town.

d. Outputs: At least 16 quarterly meetings between the Town of East Millinocket, BAC, and QEP. EPA/MEDEP eligibility determinations and site access agreements for 10 selected sites (two priority sites and eight non-priority sites), 10 Phase I ESA reports, 10 SSQAPPs, and 10 Phase II ESA/HBMI reports.

Task 4: Cleanup & Reuse Planning

b. Project Implementation:

EPA-funded tasks/activities: The Phase II ESA data and the proposed site reuse plan will be analyzed by the Town of East Millinocket staff and its QEP, and at the direction of the Town, the results will be used by the QEP to conduct cleanup planning and develop an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)/Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for each of the 10 selected sites (two initial priority sites plus eight additional non-priority sites). The ABCA/RAP will include remedial actions for each identified contaminant that exceeds applicable Maine risk-based cleanup standards. Cleanup alternatives will be evaluated, in part, based on cost, feasibility, and effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment. Based on this analysis, a proposed cleanup plan will be developed, considering the specific or potential reuse scenario(s) for the site. The Town and its QEP anticipate submitting each site to the MEDEP's Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP). Concurrently, the Town, its QEP, and specialty planning subcontractor(s) will complete reuse planning activities within the target area and priority sites. ***In accordance with EPA FY26 planning activity fact sheets, planning activities are to be conducted on select Study Areas of the GNP Mill in the form of a combination market study and evaluation of market viability, with a particular focus on industrial or light-industrial reuse, and on the proposed Target Area (downtown East Millinocket) in the form of a combination Brownfields Revitalization Study and evaluation of market viability, with a particular focus on the commercial reuse.*** During these planning activities, East Millinocket will provide support regarding land use assessments and economic development goals that are tied to the community's Comprehensive Plan (KRCP, 2020) and redevelopment plans for the Target Area and GNP Mill site. Livability principles, design charettes, potential developer input, and the community's site reuse goals will also be incorporated into these planning activities. *The Town of East Millinocket will also provide additional in-kind oversight and planning at no cost to the grant.*

Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable: None

c. Anticipated Project Schedule: ABCAs/RAPs, cleanup planning, and MEDEP VRAP applications for the two priority sites are to be completed within year 1 of the grant period and ABCAs/RAPs, cleanup planning, and MEDEP VRAP applications for the additional eight non-priority sites will be completed during years 2 and 3 of the grant period and/or after the completion of each Phase II ESA. One combination market study and evaluation of market viability will be completed during year 2 of the four-year grant period, and the other combination Brownfields revitalization plan and evaluation of market viability will be completed in year 3 of the four-year grant period.

d. Task/Activity Lead: The Town will direct all cleanup and reuse planning efforts. The QEP will conduct cleanup planning including preparation of ABCAs/RAPs and cleanup cost estimates with Town assistance and oversight and the Town in conjunction with its QEP and planning subcontractor(s) will conduct the combination market studies, evaluations of market viability, and revitalization plan.

e. Outputs: 10 ABCA/RAP reports and one public meeting for each site (10 total) after completing each ABCA/RAP/cleanup plan (two priority sites and eight non-priority sites); 10 MEDEP VRAP submittals; and two combination market studies and evaluations of market viability/Brownfields revitalization plans.

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3.f. Cost Estimates:

Budget Categories		Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight	Task 2: Community Outreach and Engagement	Task 3: Site Selection and Phase I and Phase II Assessments	Task 4: Cleanup and Reuse Planning	Total
Direct Costs	Personnel*	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Travel	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Supplies	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$500
	Contractual	\$25,000	\$4,500	\$290,000	\$150,000	\$469,500
	Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs		\$40,000	\$9,750	\$0	\$155,250	\$500,000
Indirect Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget		\$40,000	\$9,750	\$295,000	\$155,250	\$500,000

* Note: this budget shows at least 30% of the funds will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities for priority sites within the target area, and less than 5% of the funds will be spent on administrative costs.

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight: \$10,000 for Town personnel to oversee the program (200 hours @ \$50/hour); \$5,000 travel total (\$1,800 airfare, \$1,700 hotel, \$1,500 per diem for one Town staff to attend two EPA National Conferences and/or Regional Training Conferences/Meetings; and \$25,000 contractual for QEP to assist the Town with cooperative agreement oversight and reporting (200 hours @ \$125/hour average). **Total Task 1 = \$40,000.**

Task 2: Community Outreach and Engagement: \$5,000 for Town personnel to support community outreach and meetings (100 hours @ \$50/hour); \$250 for supplies (one newspaper ad/press releases and one assessment fact/information sheet @ \$125 each); and \$4,500 contractual for QEP to assist the Town with public outreach efforts, deliverables, and public meetings (36 hours @ \$125/hour average). **Total Task 2 = \$9,750.**

Task 3: Site Selection and Phase I and Phase II Assessments: \$5,000 for Town personnel to oversee assessment activities (100 hours @ \$50/hour); \$290,000 contractual for QEP to conduct two site-specific Phase I ESAs for priority sites (2 @ \$5,000/each = \$10,000), eight site-specific Phase I ESAs for non-priority sites (8 @ \$5,000/each = \$40,000), and 10 SSQAPPs and Phase II ESAs/HBMLs for two priority and eight non-priority sites (10 @ \$24,000/each = \$240,000). **Total Task 3 = \$295,000.**

Task 4: Cleanup and Reuse Planning: \$5,000 for Town personnel to oversee the site cleanup activities (100 hours @ \$50/hour); \$250 for supplies (copies, planning documents, postage); and \$150,000 contractual for QEP and subcontracted planning firm(s) to conduct 10 ABCAs/RAPs (10 @ \$5,000/each = \$50,000), and complete two EPA-approved combination reuse planning studies (market study, evaluation of market viability, and/or revitalization plan) for the Target Area and priority sites (2 @ \$50,000/each = \$100,000). **Total Task 4 = \$155,250.**

3.g. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: Consistent with prior EPA Brownfield Grants awarded to East Millinocket, this project will be managed utilizing time-proven techniques to ensure project funds are expended timely and efficiently. The Town and its QEP will hold monthly status meetings to review priority sites, schedule, and budget. ACRES will be utilized for preparing quarterly electronic reports and to monitor project progress. Assessment and cleanup of the brownfields will reduce environmental risks at the sites and target area. Additional outcomes also include the socio-economic and non-economic benefits. Completion of environmental reports (i.e., Phase I and II ESA reports, QAPPs, ABCAs/RAPs, and reuse/redevelopment planning activities) will document the assessment progress at each site and target area. Reports will be reviewed by EPA and MEDEP and will be internally tracked to ensure that each is distributed to stakeholders for comments before finalizing. Sites selected for subsequent cleanup will be entered into the MEDEP VRAP program. Specific project results (i.e., number of sites assessed, acres of land assessed or cleaned up, contaminants found, assessment/cleanup funds spent, leveraged funds, and redevelopment plans that align with revitalization plans, etc.) will also be tracked in EPA quarterly reports and ACRES database. These documents and work products will also provide liability protections required to stimulate redevelopment, as tools like Phase I ESAs provide landowner defense provisions under CERCLA, completion of ABCAs/RAPs will help determine associated cleanup costs, and reuse planning will assist developers with their business plans for successful development and revitalization of Brownfield sites. **We will also track progress in meeting one or more of the 5 Pillars of EPA's Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative (e.g., Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American).**

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(4) PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY & PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability

4.a. - 4.b. Organizational Structure & Description of Key Staff:

East Millinocket's Board of Selectmen is comprised of five members having experience with town management, economic development, active with a variety of local community boards, business owners, and financial institutions. The Board will be involved with approving expenditures and support programmatic and community engagement efforts. The Board and former Chair, Michael Michaud, has been successfully managing and overseeing all aspects the Town's current FY23 Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant and FY25 Cleanup Grant. The East Millinocket Industrial (EMI) Board, who manages the day-to-day operations and oversight of redevelopment of the GNP site, will also have an active role. EMI Board is currently comprised of five members, which include a former U.S. Congressman and former Town Selectboard Chair, Michael Michaud, former GNP employees with extensive knowledge regarding various aspects of the GNP mill site, and active members of many community boards. The overall grant will be managed by Michael Michaud, member of the East Millinocket Selectboard, with Denise Gibbs serving as Town Administrator/Treasurer. As Town Administrator, Denise supports the selectmen and oversees administrative tasks, general assistance programs, and other town functions. She currently manages finances for the Brownfields program and will continue to ensure timely fund expenditure and project completion within the 4-year performance period. Additionally, East Millinocket has procedures in place to handle staff transitions smoothly, ensuring continuity and minimizing impacts on the project.

4.c. Acquiring Additional Resources:

East Millinocket will procure a QEP in accordance with federal procurement requirements, which will include a fair and open competitive bid process and a qualification and cost-based selection process. The Town follows Federal Procurement procedures, when appropriate, and uses a purchase policy to govern day-to-day operations along with the federal procurement requirements for federal funding including EPA Brownfields funding. If additional professional services, such as other engineering, planning, and/or legal services are needed to support this grant, we will procure those services as well through an open and fair competitive selection process in accordance with federal procurement regulations and appropriate micro-purchase procedures and requirements (2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, 40 CFR Part 33, and as provided in EPA guidance and other applicable state and federal laws). At this time, we do not anticipate needing other significant resources, beyond those noted herein, to assist with the oversight and completion of the assessment grant.

Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.d. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant:

(1) **Accomplishments:** The Town received a \$500,000 FY23 Brownfields Assessment Grant (BF00A01159) and a \$4M FY25 Brownfields Cleanup Grant (4B00A01955). The Town has a successful track record of managing these Brownfields funds. The Town has completed all quarterly reports and updated information in ACRES related to the current grants. The assessments cover 4 sites within the former GNP mill property, 1 site outside the mill area, as well as a mill-wide infrastructure study and Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act to support reuse planning of the mill property. The outputs of the grant include three QAPPs, one Hazardous Materials Inventory & Hazardous Building Materials Survey (HBMS), one Phase II ESA & HBMS, two draft ABCAs, infrastructure study, structural study, and cleanup and reuse planning for 2 cleanup proposed sites. Importantly, these grants have provided funding for assessment and cleanup in the Target Area including the GNP Mill, positioning the property for additional assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment made possible by this FY26 assessment grant; therefore, this assessment grant must be secured to continue our forward progress in the Target Area.

(2) **Compliance with Grant Requirements:** The Town has successfully completed all required reporting obligations for its current FY23 Assessment Grant and FY25 Cleanup Grant, including quarterly reports and ACRES updates. The Town has complied with the workplans and terms and conditions the current grant and ACRES updating and quarterly reporting for the grant is ongoing. The Town, QEP, and our EPA Project Officer meet periodically to discuss grant compliance and progress. The FY23 Assessment Grant is open with \$103,984.55 in remaining funds (approximately 80% expended as of 10/1/25). Remaining FY23 assessment funds will be spent on cleanup planning and supplemental assessment for ongoing cleanup sites, as necessary, as well as an ongoing infrastructure study of the GNP mill property to support reuse planning, and 1 to 2 Phase I and/or Phase II ESAs within the community. We expect to expend the FY23 remaining funds in early 2026, well before the end of the grant period, demonstrating the ongoing need for additional assessment funds and our capacity to perform. The FY25 Cleanup Grant was recently initiated in Fall 2025 (0% expended as of 10/1/25), with most of the cleanup funds to be used for final cleanup planning and proposed eligible cleanup activities for the designated Fuel Storage Area-West and Wood Lot Area-West cleanup sites. The Town procured a QEP and has started final cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

Threshold Criteria for FY26 Assessment Grants

(1) Applicant Eligibility

- a. The Town of East Millinocket (Town) affirms it is a municipality (General Purpose Unit of Local Government) and therefore, is eligible to apply for Brownfields Assessment funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Grant Program.
- b. Not Applicable – The Town of East Millinocket is not a 501(c)(4) entity.

(2) Community Involvement

The Town of East Millinocket and its local community partners will implement an aggressive, multipronged plan for communicating project progress to, and soliciting input from, the local community that will last throughout the grant's four-year period of performance.

This plan will include the following activities: e-mails and e-newsletters, flyers, an updated brochure, an information repository, news releases, updated websites, Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings, public program information meetings, site-specific public information meetings, and public notices and service announcements. This plan is also consistent and further detailed in Sections 2.e. – 2.g. of the Narrative.

For those who may be unable to speak English or who have hearing or reading impairments, the Town of East Millinocket will provide accommodations including, but not limited to, translators, document reading services, and access to assistive technologies such as teletypewriter relay services.

(3) Expenditure of Existing Multipurpose Grant Funds

The Town of East Millinocket currently has one open Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant: an FY23 Brownfield Assessment Grant. For this cooperative agreement, the Town of East Millinocket affirms that payment has been received from EPA and drawn down funds disbursed, for at least 70.00% of the funding by October 1, 2025. A copy of an ASAP Account Settlement Report for this cooperative agreement, documenting that 79.20% (\$396,015.45 out of \$500,000.00) of the funding was drawn down by October 1, 2025, is attached.

(4) Contractors and Named Recipients

Not applicable, as the Town of East Millinocket affirms that no contractor has been procured and no subrecipient has been named.

Attachments: EPA ASAP Account Settlement Report - Town of East Millinocket FY23 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant (CA BF00A01159)