



Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086
(804) 843 2353

Brownfields FY 2026 Cleanup Grant Application

B. Narrative Information Sheet

1. Applicant Identification

Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086

2. Website URL

www.pamunkey.org

3. Funding Requested

- a. **Grant Type:** Single Site Cleanup
- b. **Federal Funds Requested:** \$497,076

4. Location

- a. **City:** King William
- b. **County:** King William
- c. **State Reservation:** Pamunkey Indian Reservation

5. Property Information

The former Pamunkey Dump has no mailing address. It is at the western end of a dirt road which spurs from behind the Pamunkey Baptist Church at 866 Lay Landing Road, King William, Virginia. The geographic coordinates of the approximate center of the Site are 37.574667 north latitude, -77.010278 west longitude.

6. Contacts

a. Project Director:

Joe Capella, Natural Resources Director
(804) 843 2452
joseph.capella@pamunkey.org
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King Wiliam, VA 23086

b. Chief Executive

Richard Matens Executive Director

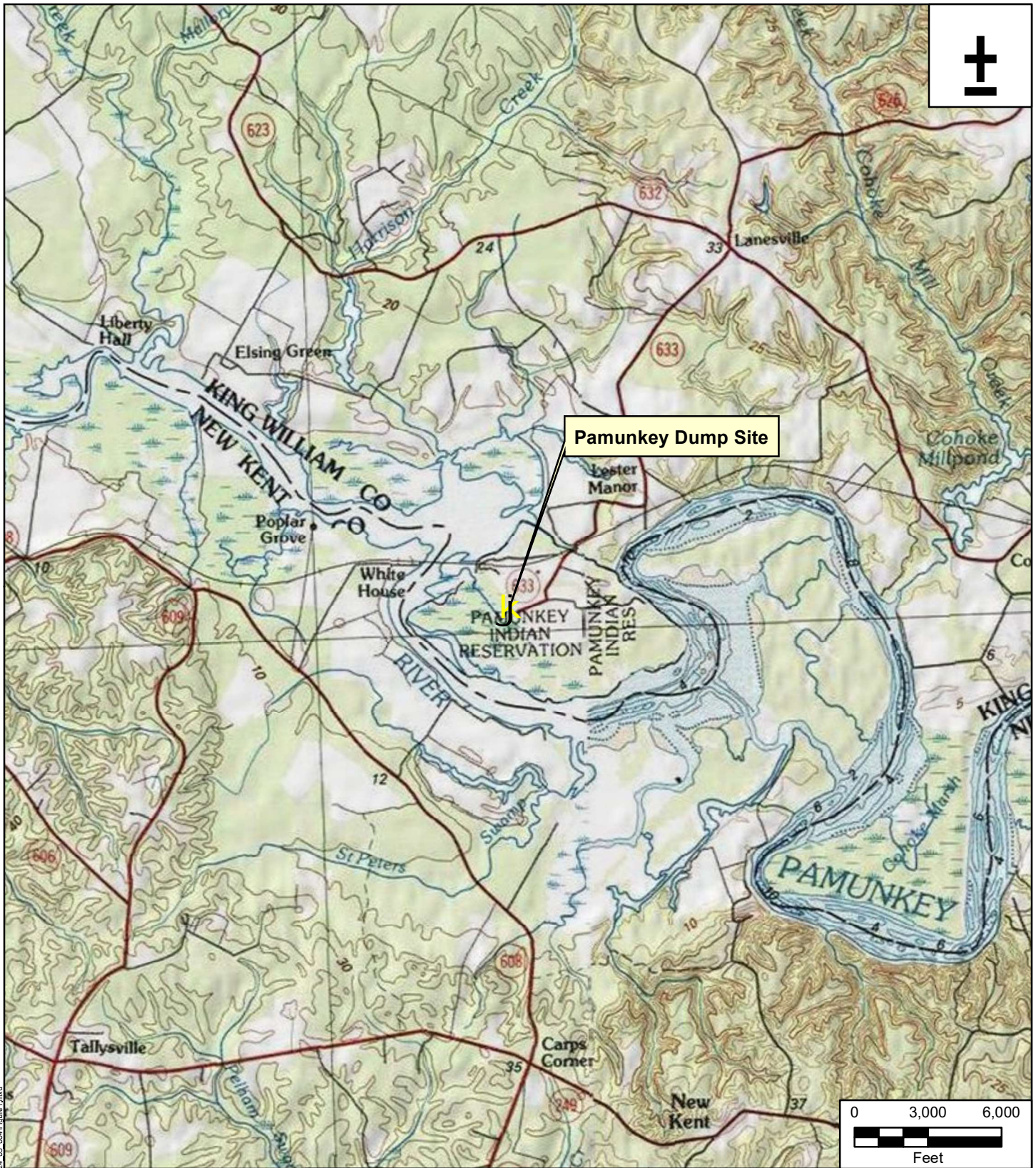
(804) 885 3344
Richard.matens@pamunkey.org
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King Wiliam, VA 23086

7. **Population:** 514 Pamunkey enrolled citizens affected by project

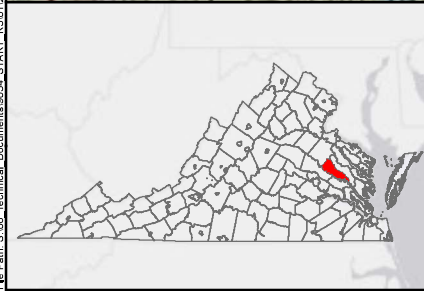
8. **Other Factors**

Other Factor	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less	1
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	1
Secured firm leveraging commitment ties directly to the project and will facilitate completion of the remediation/reuse; secured resource is identified in the Narrative and substantiated in the attached documentation.	3, 4, 10
The proposed site(s) is adjacent to a body of water	2
The proposed site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	3
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	3

9. **Releasing Copies of Applications:** not applicable



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Legend

 Site Location

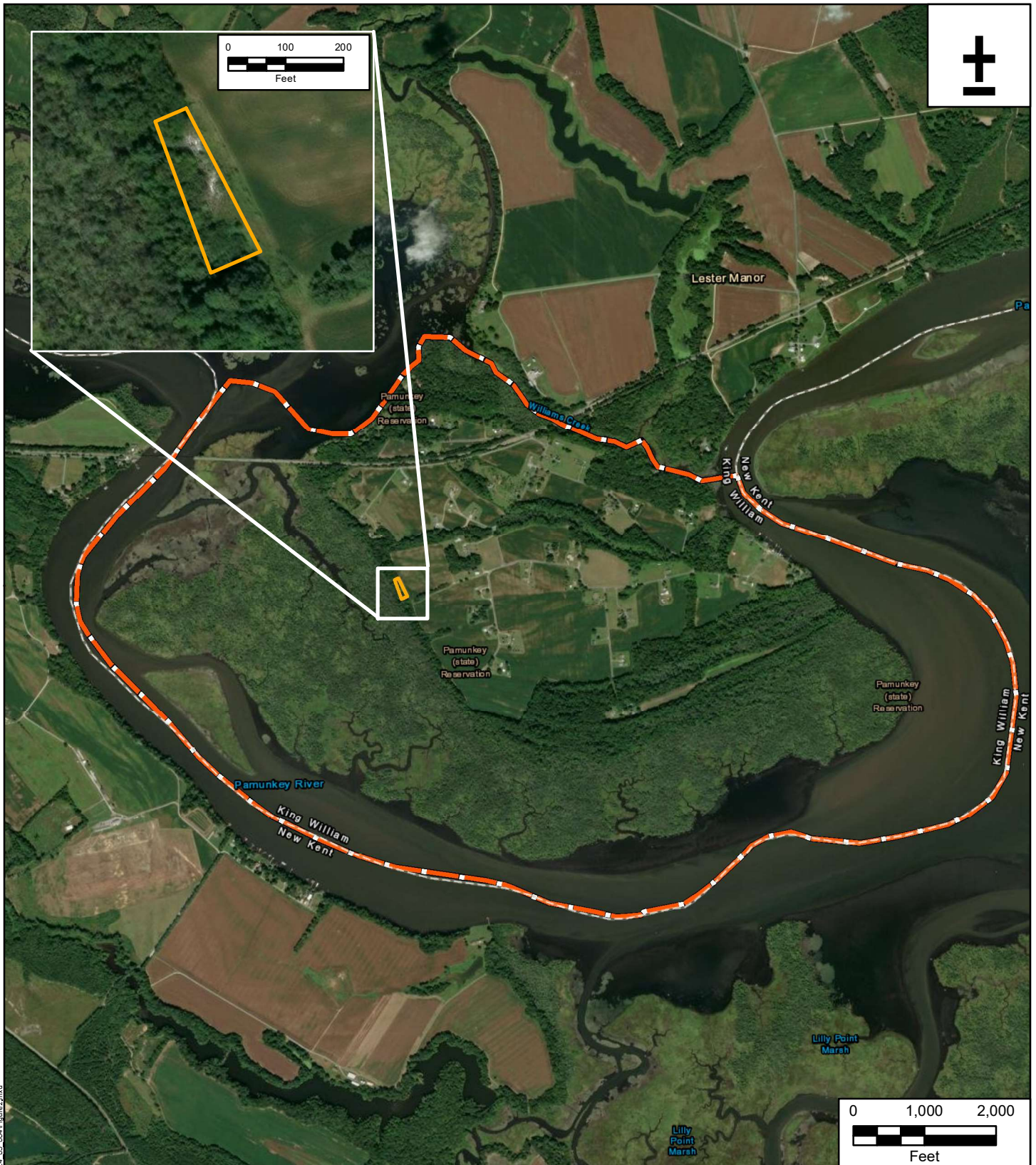
Pamunkey Dump
King William County, VA

Figure 1
Site Location





Source: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community
Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, iCubed
EPA Contract No: 68HE0320D003 TD No: T601-24-03-004

Prepared For: EPA R3 START VI Prepared By: K. Orzada
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Virginia South FIPS 4502 FT US



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Pamunkey Indian Reservation

Pamunkey Dump
King William County, VA

Figure 2
Site Layout



File Path: S:\06-Technical Documents\9034_START_R3\0124_03_004\Figure2.mxd



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Brownfields FY 2026 Cleanup Grant Application

C. Narrative

I. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization Target Area and Brownfields

a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area

The Pamunkey Indian Reservation, the oldest Indian reservation in the United States was formed by the Treaty of 1646, which ended colonial Virginia's Third Anglo-Powhatan War and reserved all land north of the York River as "Indian land". Colonists encroached for 31 years, culminating in Bacon's Rebellion. Following the rebellion, the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation designated a three-mile radius centered on the current Reservation as Pamunkey lands. Despite further encroachment, the Tribe held on to a culturally invaluable "island" on an oxbow bend in the Pamunkey River. The Pamunkey Indian Reservation is a 1200-acre peninsula on the Pamunkey River in King William, Virginia encompassing a unique complex of emergent and forested wetlands, tidal swamps, and mesic upland forest.

Pamunkey people have preserved their traditions in fishing, pottery, and other cultural practices despite centuries of colonial pressure, discriminatory laws, and land loss. In 2016, the Tribe achieved federal recognition, solidifying their sovereignty and ongoing presence in Virginia and America. The current population of the Reservation consists of 64 enrolled Tribal citizens plus their families, totaling about 80. An additional 450 citizens throughout the United States maintain a strong connection to the community and Pamunkey culture. The Pamunkey Indian Reservation falls within Census Tract 51101950200, Block Group 1 in King William County, VA. Virginia's Flood Risk Information System identifies this block group as highly socially vulnerable to socioeconomic pressures (Virginia DCR, n.d.).

With 13 miles of shoreline surrounding the Reservation on three sides, the Pamunkey River is inextricably tied to Pamunkey life. Traditions such as shad and sturgeon fishing, duck and deer hunting, beaver trapping, and harvesting river clay for pottery are all staples of Pamunkey culture and identity. The Tribe's hatchery, one of the oldest in the United States, sustained shad populations across the Mid-Atlantic from 1918 to 2018, and is currently undergoing renovations to begin operating again. Natural resources on and around the Reservation are integral to Pamunkey art, a cultural and economic staple for citizens. The historic museum, Baptist church, schoolhouse, and pottery school attract 600+ visitors a year. Reservation residents lease their land to corn and soybean producers. However, all these cultural and natural resources are increasingly threatened by flooding, sea-level rise, shoreline erosion, pollution, and socioeconomic challenges, all which place pressure on both the ecosystem and the community's way of life. Indeed, the Reservation was listed in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2025.

The Target Area for cleanup is a 3-acre area which encompasses the retired Pamunkey Community Dump (“dump”). It sits at the end of a dirt road which spurs from behind the historic Pamunkey Baptist Church at 866 Lay Landing Rd, King William, VA 23086 within Census Tract 51101950200, Block Group 1 in King William County, VA. These 3 acres sit at the nexus of an agricultural field, wildlife-rich woodlands, and forested wetlands connecting to Great Creek, a culturally important tributary of the Pamunkey River. The Tribe owns the site, but the dump sits at the west edge of a citizen’s allotment. The site is about 14 feet above sea level, just .25 miles down the road from the Pamunkey Baptist Church, a community gathering place, making it the perfect site for a new greenspace.

The Brownfield challenges related to this site include **1)** lack of official records regarding sources, waste materials, composition, amount, etc. **2)** the complexity of contamination due to multiple buried layers of waste **3)** the complexity of the site due to steep slopes and proximity to wetlands **4)** inhibited cultural practices such as hunting, trapping, and fishing **5)** loss of economic and cultural opportunity on the site **6)** a degraded landscape and viewshed proximal to the community church and multiple citizens’ homes **7)** the thriving invasive plant population at the site **8)** high cleanup costs for a capacity- and funding-limited Tribal government.

b. Description of the Proposed Brownfield Site

The dump was an unlicensed and unregulated waste disposal area on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation which operated from the 1960’s until 2018 when the Tribe, under EPA’s General Assistance Program, developed an Integrated Waste Management Plan which closed the dump and funded a county waste removal contract. While the central waste pile of the dump is a fenced off ¼ acre, the surrounding landscape outside the fence is littered with waste and aggressive invasive plants that have migrated outward from the site, hence the 3-acre target area. Citizens would dispose of waste, then bury and push the pile westward to make room for more waste. Over time, waste was pushed toward the slope leading to the wetlands at the western edge, just 650 feet east of Great Creek and the Pamunkey River.

In 2018, a US EPA-funded Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) observed visual evidence of possible hazardous cleaning products, oil containers, household waste, building materials, and furniture. The contaminants of concern were noted as arsenic, chromium, asbestos, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) (Tetra Tech, 2018). In December 2020, EPA contracted a Phase II ESA. Groundwater from outside of the waste pile perimeter and sediment from the forested wetland west of the pile contained arsenic, cobalt, and iron, aluminum, manganese, and vanadium at concentrations which exceeded Virginia’s Voluntary Remediation Program’s (VA VRP) Tier II residential standards. Volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and PAHs were detected at levels below VRP standards. Gasoline and diesel range organics were detected in sediment while only diesel range organics were detected in groundwater (Tetra Tech, 2021a).

An Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) was drafted in July 2021 to identify alternatives based on effectiveness, implementation feasibility, and cost. This assessment used VRP Tier II residential screening levels as cleanup standards. Four alternatives were considered for this site. Alternative four, removal of solid waste and the top two feet of soil, then backfilling with clean fill, was identified as the most effective (Tetra Tech, 2021b).

In 2024 and 2025, EPA’s Superfund and Emergency Management Division further characterize the site. Aluminum, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, and vanadium all exceeded EPA’s residential soil screening level in surface

and subsurface samples. Arsenic and lead exceeded regional removal management levels. SVOCs, PAHs, and pesticides were all detected at low concentrations (Tetra Tech, 2025).

The results of these extensive characterizations make clear the Tribe's vital land and water resources within and around the dump are contaminated or at risk of being contaminated. The adjacent wetlands, which host critical food and cultural resources for the tribe, such as waterfowl, fish, tuckahoe, and wild rice, are also at risk. The dump fragments important edge habitat for wildlife at the field-forest-wetland interface. Pamunkey citizens are at risk of exposure to contaminants and are inhibited from practicing cultural activities at the site. The Pamunkey Tribe is proposing to remove the solid waste and top two feet of soil and backfill the site for greenspace development to minimize exposure and restore 3 acres back to cultural use.

c. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The Tribe will reuse the dump site as a community greenspace for citizens, which aligns with multiple Tribal initiatives. The Tribe has been developing new allotments for citizens, presenting the need for additional community spaces. Pamunkey Natural Resources recently developed an invasive species management program through a US Forest Service grant, and this site was identified as a target area. Enhanced food security via cultural practices at the site would present an opportunity for Pamunkey Citizen Services to provide food harvested on ancestral land to Pamunkey elders. The Tribe recently acquired new land for citizen allotments and increased food programming and plans to use the remediated dump site for a food forest pilot program. Expanded community programming through Citizen Services and Cultural Resources is planned to include "cultural camps" where Tribal youth can learn about Pamunkey cultural practices from adults and elders. With proximity to forests, wetlands, culturally important plant species, and agricultural space, the revitalized space will be the perfect setting.

d. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

The revitalized 1-acre cultural heritage park, in the heart of the former dump location, will contain greenspace for community reflection and cultural programming. Quiet space amongst native plants and fruit trees will give citizens a chance to re-connect with a once contaminated and restricted piece of their ancestral land. Enhanced access to adjacent woodlands and wetlands will connect citizens to improved hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds, enhancing food security and securing sovereign rights granted in the 1600's treaties. These outcomes correlate with the Pamunkey Natural and Cultural Resources' and Citizen Services' reuse strategy by creating additional community spaces, removing invasive species, and restoring ancestral land to increase options for food security and cultural practices for youth and elders.

Removing the waste and contaminated soil and revitalizing the space as a park will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters by mitigating the risk of waste migrating from the dump into wetlands and the river, especially during flood stage. Most of the Reservation is classified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (FEMA, 2023). Eradication of invasive species and waste will enhance riparian buffers adjacent to wetlands, minimizing nutrient and sediment loss and improving the landscape's ability to mitigate flooding and erosion.

e. Resources Needed for Site Characterization

In terms of reuse and redevelopment potential, one compelling factor among others for this site is no further characterization is needed. EPA funded Phase I and II ESA's, an ABCA, and a third characterization through Superfund. The Tribe leveraged capacity supported by EPA GAP to facilitate these and develop the Tribe's IWMP and will continue to leverage GAP funds.

f. Resources Needed for Site Remediation

EPA GAP will be leveraged to bring remediation to completion. GAP supports the Natural Resources Director's (NRD) salary. These funds will provide capacity for contractor procurement, project management, reporting, and post-cleanup plans. As a result of a fair and transparent solicitation and procurement process, an environmental consultant will oversee and conduct the site cleanup and backfill, and provide the administrative capacity and technical assistance needed to enroll the site in VA VRP to ensure remediation actions and documentation are completed. The Tribe has already collaborated with VA VRP on cleanup and reuse plans and will utilize VRP to ensure remediation actions and documentation are comprehensive.

g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

The Tribe's EPA GAP, US Forest Service, and Weissberg Foundation grants, will be leveraged for site reuse, supporting NRD capacity to engage the community, implement plans for the new park, and develop citizen programming in tandem with Pamunkey Cultural Resources and Citizen Services.

h. Use of Existing Infrastructure

While there are no existing buildings at the site or within the 3-acre target area, the existing dirt road leading to the site will be utilized throughout the project for cleanup and remediation. Tribal government buildings outside the target area will be used to facilitate meetings. The Tribe's new Community Resource Center will be used for community engagement.

II. Community Need and Community Engagement

a. The Community's Need for Funding

The Tribe has an 11.6% poverty rate compared to Virginia's 10.2% poverty rate. The unemployment rate on the Reservation is 11.3%, higher than Virginia's 3.2% and the US's 4.2%. Virginia lists this census block as being highly socially vulnerable due to socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing and transportation conditions. The Tribe does not tax citizens so there is no public revenue source to fund government projects. Furthermore, most of the Tribal government departments run largely, if not completely, on grant funding. Although the Tribe has tried various avenues for removing and remediating the site, the hazardous material and high cost of the project render the Brownfields program the most effective and appropriate funding for this project.

b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

According to a recent community survey, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC assistance was obtained by 28.1%, 19.1%, 15.7%, and 9.6% of respondents, respectively. Stress, money problems, food insecurity, and social isolation were among the identified threats to community health. In certain age groups, over 30% of participants stated they did not have enough money for food, and over 25% had concerns related to stable housing. Thirty percent of residents have a disability. Every resident whose allotment is adjacent to the dump is an elder, and all the attendees of the adjacent Pamunkey Baptist Church are elders. Transformation of the site into a greenspace will help alleviate social isolation by encouraging the community to gather and share. Improved wildlife habitat and native food plants will help address food insecurity.

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

Health data historically have not been internally collected by the Tribe, but Pamunkey Health Services and Citizen Services have been working with Virginia Commonwealth

University's Massey Cancer Center on an intertribal initiative to track cancer instances in Virginia Native Americans. It is understood through community knowledge that cancer and thyroid issues persist amongst many Pamunkey citizens.

d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

The Reservation's rural location and lack of transportation infrastructure mean limited opportunities for preventative and emergency care. Most health and emergency services are 30 or more minutes away. CDC's PLACES platform categorizes King William County as facing greater than 20% prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression, obesity, physical inactivity, and short sleep duration. General health, frequent mental distress, and frequent physical distress were all just below 20% prevalence. (CDC, n.d.)

e-f. Community Engagement – Project Involvement & Project Roles

Community engagement will happen exclusively on the Reservation due to the sensitive nature of the site. Jessica Bradby, the Tribe's Enrollment & Citizen Services Director will provide technical assistance and facilitate community engagement and potential future programming, meeting her department's mission to provide responsive outreach that reflects the values and needs of the community. Kendall Stevens, the Tribe's Cultural Resources and NAGPRA Committee Director, will provide technical assistance on how to best honor culture and ancestors and incorporate traditional practices and stories at the new greenspace. Lindsey Lockwood, the Pamunkey Health Services Director will provide input on how the redeveloped space can be designed to improve citizen health and wellness.

g. Incorporating Community Input

Pre-Proposal Comment Period: Pamunkey Natural Resources shared a draft proposal as well as the ABCA via email and Facebook for community review and comment on 1/13/2026. The proposal and ABCA were available for review online and comment via email and phone for 14 days through 1/27/26. A virtual meeting was held the evening of 1/26/26 to allow citizens who work and/or live off-Reservation to provide additional input. All comments shared positive feelings towards the idea of a new greenspace. Input is incorporated into the final proposal.

Community Conversations: Throughout the project, the Tribal government will continue to hold bi-annual (6-month) "Community Conversations". These presentations usually provide opportunity for updates from each Tribal department to citizens and take place on the Reservation with a virtual attendance option. Pamunkey Natural Resources will leverage this time to give project updates to the community and provide opportunity for meaningful public participation in site design and reuse plans.

Website and Facebook: The Pamunkey Natural Resources Department page on the Tribal website, as well as posts on the community Facebook page, will provide monthly updates on the progress of the project..

Post-Cleanup: Citizens will be provided honoraria to assist with monthly greenspace development days over the last 6 months of the project. Native plantings, landscaping, and sacred space development will all provide ample opportunity for volunteer efforts from citizens.

III. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

a. Proposed Cleanup Plan

The Tribe will remove 44,148 ft³ of waste and 23,000 ft³ of contaminated soil, transport all material off the Reservation, and backfill the site with clean fill before redevelopment and reuse.

These cleanup activities are consistent with alternative #4 provided in the 2021 ABCA. Required permits, if any, will be obtained, and cleanup and disposal requirements will be consistent with VA VRP and EPA standards. All activities in the table are EPA-funded, except those associated with *Task 2*.

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

Task/Activity 1: Project Management & Activity Reporting
b. Project Implementation: EPA-funded tasks/activities: Quarterly, annual, and final reporting; administer EPA ACRES platform, enrollment in VA VRP, monthly meetings with contractors and VA DEQ, attend local, regional, and nationwide Brownfields conferences as appropriate
c. Anticipated Project Schedule: Ongoing throughout project, estimated 1.5 years
d. Task/Activity Lead: Joe Capella, Natural Resources Director
e. Outputs: 6 quarterly reports, 1 annual report, 1 final report, consistent ACRES reporting, 18 meetings with contractors and DEQ, VA VRP enrollment, state and EPA Brownfields conferences

Task/Activity 2: Financial Administration & Reporting
b. Project Implementation: EPA-funded tasks/activities: Financial reporting and recordkeeping, submit necessary financial documents throughout project
c. Anticipated Project Schedule: Ongoing throughout project, estimated 1.5 years
d. Task/Activity Lead: Amber Obeng, Pamunkey Financial Director
e. Outputs: financial documents associated with project management & reporting

Task/Activity 3: Community Engagement
b. Project Implementation: EPA-funded tasks/activities: Monthly updates and email link on Tribe’s website and community Facebook page, 6-month updates via community conversations
c. Anticipated Project Schedule: Ongoing throughout project, estimated 1.5 years
d. Task/Activity Lead: Joe Capella, Natural Resources Director
e. Outputs: 18 monthly updates, 3 community conversations, “open-door” communication with citizens via email and office phone

Task/Activity 4: Dump Cleanup
b. Project Implementation: EPA-funded tasks/activities: Contractor will remove and haul away entire waste pile and two feet of contaminated soil underneath, contractor oversight and documentation through VA VRP
c. Anticipated Project Schedule: Year 1 of performance period
d. Task/Activity Lead: Cleanup contractors, Virginia DEQ
e. Outputs: work plans, QAPP/SAP, remedial verification reports, final technical reports, etc., oversight and documentation through VA VRP, remediated greenspace for reuse

Task/Activity 5: Site Reuse & Greenspace Development
b. Project Implementation: EPA-funded tasks/activities: Contractor will grade site and backfill site with clean fill, new greenspace designed in tandem with citizens and Council, monthly community greenspace volunteer days
c. Anticipated Project Schedule: Year 2 of performance period
d. Task/Activity Lead: Joe Capella, Natural Resources Director

e. Outputs: Citizen survey regarding site reuse, new park and cultural practice reserve established, enhanced native plants, wetland buffers, and wildlife habitat, 6 greenspace volunteer days

f. **Cost Estimates** – A detailed budget is attached as an additional document.

Task 1 – Project Management & Activity Reporting (\$17,772) –

- Personnel: \$13,500 (\$90,000 annual salary x 10% effort x 1.5 years of project)
- Travel: \$3,426 – one staff member to attend VA Brownfields Conference: (\$300 registration + \$116 POV mileage = \$416); National Brownfields Training: (\$300 registration + \$450 flight + \$852 lodging + \$520 per diem + \$525 rental car = \$2647); other local trainings and site visits (500 miles x \$.725/mile = \$363)
- Indirect: \$846 (5% direct costs)

Task 2 – Financial Administration (\$0) – The tribe is not requesting any EPA funds for this task.

Task 3 – Community Engagement (\$3150)

- Supplies: \$3000 (\$500 informational material such as pamphlets, maps, letters to citizens; \$2500 light refreshments [\$250/event x 10 events])
- Indirect: \$150 (5% direct costs)

Task 4 – Dump Removal (\$413,700)

- Contractual: \$64,000 (\$14,000 Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program Enrollment [\$7000 enrollment fee, \$2500 application fee, \$4500 renewal fee/year x 1 year]; \$50,000 consultant support for VA VRP enrollment & oversight, reporting, and technical assistance)
- Construction: \$330,000 (Contracted removal of waste pile & migrated waste, removal of top two feet of soil, clean backfill and planted to native grasses, administrative support, VRP support)
- Indirect: \$19,700 (5% direct costs)

Task 5 – Greenspace Development (\$62,454)

- Supplies: \$37,880 (\$30,000 native plant stock [50 medium trees x \$300/tree + 100 small trees x \$150/tree], \$5880 planting equipment [10 shovels x \$40/shovel + 2 packs of tree tubes x \$340/pack of 150 tubes + 100 yd³ compost x \$48/yard³], \$2000 interpretive signage)
- Other: \$21,600 (Citizen honoraria - \$30/hr x 4 hr/planting day x 6 planting days x 30 households)
- Indirect: \$2,974 (5% direct costs)

Total Budget (\$497,076)

- Personnel: \$13,500
- Travel: \$3,426
- Supplies: \$40,880
- Contractual: \$64,000
- Construction: \$330,000
- Other: \$21,600

- = **Total Direct: \$473,406**
- + **Total Indirect (5%): \$23,670**

g. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results

A comprehensive schedule for the project will be developed and distributed to the project team and will guide the project to completion, highlighting benchmarks and deliverables throughout each task. NRD will sign off on highlighted items and provide the signed schedule in each progress report. Monthly meetings with the project team will set goals and action items for the upcoming month, ensuring accountability and forward movement. Project metrics will include 1) acres of waste removal footprint 2) acres restored to greenspace 3) number of citizens at each community conversation 4) number of inquiries or comments received throughout the project 5) number of citizens who volunteer for greenspace development.

IV. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

a-c. Organizational Structure, Description of Key Staff, & Acquiring Additional Resources

Chief and Council, driven by Pamunkey Tribal citizen input, provide directives to the Tribal government. Dump cleanup funding has been a priority for the Tribe since it was closed in 2018. Joe Capella, the NRD, will act as project manager and liaison between the Tribe, EPA, VA DEQ, and cleanup contractors. His experience managing multiple environmental grants and projects for the department will prove effective for cleanup.

The NRD will consult with Kendall Stevens, Jessica Bradby and Lindsey Lockwood, the Cultural Resources, Enrollment & Citizen Services, and Health Directors, respectively. The team of directors have catalyzed strong and continuous growth for the Tribe over the last two years, bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars in new grants, standing up new initiatives and citizen programs, and steadily increasing community engagement.

Administrative and financial capacity related to the cleanup grant will be handled by the Pamunkey Tribe’s administrative team – Executive Director, Richard Matens, a health, human services and government executive with a record of developing and administering high-impact, cost-effective programs for diverse populations and Finance Director, Amber Obeng, who has over 10 years of experience working in accounting and finance operations including auditing, financial reporting, and grant management.

The Tribe will contract an environmental consultant with Brownfields experience to facilitate and conduct cleanup. The consultant will also handle all technical and administrative aspects of the cleanup component, such as oversight and paperwork in tandem with VA VRP. The contractor will act as a liaison between the Tribe and VA DEQ throughout the VRP enrollment and reporting process.

Past Performance and Accomplishments

- e. **Has not received an EPA Brownfields Grant, but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements:**

EPA General Assistance Program

1. Purpose and Accomplishments

Upon receipt of its first EPA GAP grant in 2018, the Tribe worked with EPA to develop its Integrated Waste Management Plan, which closed the dump and provided citizens with waste removal through King William County. The grant facilitated the ESA's and ABCA. Capacity limitations prevented the Tribe from pursuing funding for cleanup during that grant period.

The Tribe is in its third year of a recent four-year GAP grant. This grant is intertwined with the goals of this cleanup proposal. Along with the community waste removal, the current GAP grant supports the Natural Resources Director's salary, ensuring capacity to pursue cleanup funding and manage the project. Since FY24, the Tribe has greatly expanded its internal processes and records, including detailed maps of wells, septic systems, and other community resources. GAP funds also support community education and health through well water testing and biodiversity expansion on the Reservation.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements

The Tribe has diligently met each report deadline. Quarterly check-ins with the project officer ensure the workplan is being effectively executed. Through meeting GAP commitments, the department expanded capacity, enhanced advocacy and partnership, and supported community waste removal, annual water testing, and flood planning,

USDA Forest Service Region 3 Infrastructure Funding

1. Purpose and Accomplishments

The Tribe is in year one of a three-year, \$100,000 USDA Forest Service grant which supports a new invasive species management program on the Reservation. The Brownfield target area is named as a priority site in the workplan, and site cleanup and redevelopment would bolster efforts to re-establish natives at this heavily invaded and degraded site. The community engagement component of this grant is comparable to the Tribe's proposed Brownfields workplan, with regular community meetings and community-focused native plantings.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements

While the grant is relatively new to the Tribe, the first quarterly report was submitted early, containing detailed geospatial products developed by NRD, and showed the Tribe was projected to meet second quarter commitments early.

Commonwealth of Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund

1. Purpose and Accomplishments

In January 2026, the Tribe was awarded \$262,000 from VA Department of Conservation and Recreation's Community Flood Preparedness Fund. This project aims to conduct comprehensive engineering studies and localized flood modeling to develop a Flood Resilience Master Plan for the Tribe. Due to the contaminants associated with the priority area and its designation within the SFHA, it will be a site of interest during these assessments.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PLACES: Local Data for Better Health.(n.d.) Accessed [1/15/26]. <https://www.cdc.gov/places>
2. Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2023). Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 0235 (51101C0235F). Retrieved from FEMA Flood Map Service Center.

3. Tetra Tech Inc. 2018. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Target Brownfields Assessment Report, Pamunkey Dump Site.
4. Tetra Tech Inc. 2021a. Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Target Brownfields Assessment Report, Pamunkey Dump Site.
5. Tetra Tech Inc. 2021b. Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives, Pamunkey Dump Site.
6. Tetra Tech Inc. 2025b. Pamunkey Dump Site START Assessment
7. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. (n.d.). *Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS)*. Retrieved [January 3, 2026], from <https://casdsis.dcr.virginia.gov/VFRIS/>



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Threshold Criteria Responses

1) Applicant Eligibility:

- a) I affirm The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, recognized in 2016, and is eligible for funding.
- b) I affirm The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is not exempt from federal taxation under section 501 (c)(4) of the IRC.

2) Previously Awarded Cleanup Grants: I affirm the proposed site has not received funding from a previously awarded Brownfields Cleanup Grant.

3) Expenditure of Existing Multipurpose Grant Funds: I affirm the Pamunkey Indian Tribe does not have an open EPA Brownfields Multipurpose Grant

4) Site Ownership: I affirm the Pamunkey Indian Tribe is the sole owner of the site. The site sits on King William County parcel 58-2, the Pamunkey Indian Reservation.

5) Basic Site Information:

- a) The decommissioned Pamunkey Community Dump.
- b) The former Pamunkey Dump has no mailing address. It is at the western end of a dirt road which spurs from behind the Pamunkey Baptist Church at 866 Lay Landing Road, King William, Virginia 23086. The geographic coordinates of the approximate center of the Site are 37.574667 north latitude, -77.010278 west longitude.

6) Status and History of Contamination at the Site

- a) The site is contaminated by hazardous substances.
- b) The .25-acre site operated as a residential waste disposal site for the Pamunkey community from the 1960's until 2018 when it was closed and the Tribe implemented community waste collection through King William County using EPA General Assistance Program funds. The site has been fenced off and restricted from citizen use since 2018.
- c) The results of an EPA-funded Phase II Environmental Site Assessment showed metals, such as arsenic, cobalt, aluminum, and others exceeding Virginia residential sediment and groundwater standards. Other contaminants, such as VOC's, SVOC's were detected below standards. In 2024 and 2025, EPA's Superfund and Emergency Management Decision performed additional analyses and detected additional metals all exceeding EPA's residential soil screening standards. Arsenic and lead were found to exceed regional removal management levels.

In addition to the already-contaminated soil and groundwater, the site sits adjacent to wetlands which connect to Great Creek, a culturally-important waterway, and the Pamunkey River. The wetlands are at risk of waste migration, especially during flood stages, as the Reservation sits partially within a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area.

- d) The site contains 60 years worth of household waste, cleaning products, oil containers, building material, and furniture. The site was often half-buried, then pushed into the woods when more space was needed for waste, creating an irregular, layered pile of waste with migration across the 3-acre target area. Contamination has been detected both in the waste pile and outside the extent of the waste pile.

7) Brownfield Site Definition:

- a) I affirm the site is not listed or proposed for listing on the National Priorities List.
- b) I affirm the site is not subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrative orders on consent, or judicial consent decrees issued to or entered into by parties under CERCLA.
- c) The site is not subject to the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the U.S. government.

- 8) Environmental Assessment:** In 2018, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) observed visual evidence of possible hazardous materials and initiated a Phase II ESA in December 2020. Analysis of groundwater from outside of the waste pile perimeter and sediment from the forested wetland west of the pile revealed the contamination. An Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) was drafted in July 2021 to identify alternatives based on effectiveness, implementation feasibility, and cost. Removal of solid waste and two feet of soil underneath, then filling with clean backfill was found to be the most effective alternative to eliminate current and future contamination risks. The waste and soil are estimated to measure a combined ~67,000 ft³. In 2024 and 2025, in an attempt to trigger a removal action, EPA's Superfund and Emergency Management Division performed analyses to further characterize the site and sample suspect asbestos-containing material, during which time the additional metal contamination was measured.

- 9) Site Characterization:** I, Pamunkey Natural Resources Director, affirm that there is a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessments performed to date for the remediation work to begin on the site.

- 10) Enforcement or Other Actions:** I affirm there are no known ongoing or anticipated environmental enforcement or other actions related to the site for which Brownfields Grant funding is sought.

- 11) Property-Specific Determination:** I affirm the site does not need a property-specific determination.

12) Threshold Criteria Related to CERCLA/Petroleum Liability

- a) **Property Ownership Eligibility – Hazardous Substance Sites:** I affirm the Pamunkey Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and, therefore, is exempt from demonstrating that they meet the requirements of a CERCLA liability defense to be an eligible for a Brownfields Grant,

13) Cleanup Authority and Oversight Structure:

- a) The Tribe plans to enroll in Virginia's Voluntary Remediation Program to ensure proper oversight and documentation throughout the project. The Tribe will also

employ a contractor assist with VRP administration and paperwork, interfacing with the Tribe and VA DEQ to execute enrollment and see the site to full remediation. The Tribe has budgeted the necessary funds for application, enrollment, and one year of renewal in the program.

- b) This cleanup will not impact adjacent properties and will not require any site access logistics.

14) Community Notification: See additional attachments

15) Contractors and Named Subrecipients: n/a



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

www.deq.virginia.gov

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director

January 26, 2026

Joe Capella
Natural Resources Director
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Subject: VRP Applicability and Grant Support – Pamunkey Tribe
FY2026 USEPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant
EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-07

Dear Mr. Capella,

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been in coordination with you and your team regarding the plans to submit an EPA Cleanup Grant application for an approximately 3-acre parcel that includes a 0.25-acre unregulated fill area. The site is located adjacent to wetlands adjacent to Great Creek, a tributary of the Pamunkey River that intersects the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William County, Virginia. Cleanup plans include removal of discarded waste material to re-establish native vegetation as part of a bigger plan to reuse the site as public greenspace.

As a tribal entity, there is no requirement for state agency review and Voluntary Remediation Plan (VRP) eligibility confirmation. However, as part of ongoing collaboration, DEQ is aware that Phase II Environmental Site Assessment data leading to completion of an Assessment of Brownfield Clean-up Alternatives (ABCA) for the site. Based on data collected and coordination with tribal representatives, it is our understanding that the Pamunkey Tribe is considering VRP enrollment for DEQ oversight of cleanup efforts. Based upon the environmental site assessment performed to date and information provided by the applicant, the DEQ oversight program concurs that the site has had a sufficient level of site characterization for the remediation work to begin. After clean-up, additional documentation to complete the VRP process may be needed

VRP Applicability and Grant Support – Pamunkey
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(e.g., compiled documentation of environmental assessments, Demonstration of Completion report to document remedial measures completed and planned site use restrictions, if any).

The DEQ Brownfields program is pleased to offer our support for this grant proposal and we look forward to working closely with the Pamunkey Tribe on this important Brownfields clean-up and redevelopment project.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at karen.weber@deq.virginia.gov or 804-432-7790.

Sincerely,

Weber Karen
zdm78982



Digitally signed by: Weber Karen
zdm78982
DN: CN = Weber Karen zdm78982
OU = COV-Users, End-Users, DEQ
Date: 2026.01.26 16:21:11 -05'00'

Karen Weber, P.G.
Brownfields Coordinator

cc: Cortney Marquette – DEQ-CO