

Brownfields: Runway Homes Project

Fort Belknap Airstrip, Fort Belknap Agency, MT

**BIPARTISAN
INFRASTRUCTURE LAW**



Location/Site Info

- Former Fort Belknap Agency Airstrip located SW of Fort Belknap Agency(Hub)
- Fort Belknap Agency Airstrip once had **30 homes** that were acquired from the Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT back in **2013**. The homes were reportedly constructed in the 1960s, making the presence of hazardous building materials a concern.
- Unfortunately, since being stored on the runway, **27** of the **30** homes have burned. All that remains of the burned homes are piles of ash with some wood and other debris on the runway



Runway homes-BMI

- Asbestos Containing Building Materials (**ACBM**)-Twelve (12) building materials were confirmed as ACBM (samples containing >1% asbestos), and one building material(Ceramic Tiles) was confirmed as asbestos-containing with <1% asbestos.
- Lead Based Paint (**LBP**)-16 of the 24 standing homes tested positive for Lead Based Paint. Found in (door, jamb, and trim) of each home.
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (**PCBs**)-Each home had one fluorescent light fixture that contained a magnetic light ballast. Some homes had fluorescent light fixtures removed prior to the BMI. The light fixtures are located on the wall of a floorless room that appears to be a former stairwell to a basement



Asbestos Results

- >1%
- <1%
- None Detected

Meth Results

- Less than or equal to 0.1 ug/sq-cm

Lead-Based Paint Results

- Lead-Based Paint

- Doors
- Hanging Door
- Interior Walls
- Exterior Walls

House #1 - Asbestos, Lead-Based Paint & Meth Results
FBCEDC - Runway Homes
Fort Belknap Agency, Montana
FIGURE 3



Required: EPA & Tribal Forms

1. **Work Plan** (required by FBIC Environmental Protection Department “EPD”)
2. **Community Outreach Plan** (required by EPA) “QAPP” or QAPP.
3. **Sampling and Analysis Plan** “SAP” (required by EPA)
4. Host a Public Meeting on the ABCA (required by EPA)
5. **BIL signage** (required by BIL funding)
6. **Approved Access Agreement** for primary contractor (required by FBIC)
7. **Waste Management and Disposal Permit Application form** and permit fee of 1% (required by FBIC EPD).



Clean Up

- “Complete Request for Proposals “**RFP**” to hire a Qualified Environmental Professional “**QEP**” as primary contractor, advertise in newspapers, and send to environmental contractors (and develop a list).
- Assemble environmental/technical team who can screen and rank contract proposals, and hire QEP. In our case, we had to make recommendation to FBIC Natural Resources Committee who voted on QEP, then FBIC Council ratified decision.
- Cleanup Oversight by QEP – to be completed once SAP is approved and public comment period on ABCA is over
- All abatement work was completed under wet conditions to prevent the spreading of asbestos from the site.
- During the demolition, ACBM (Vinyl floor tiles “VFT”, ceramic tiles, etc.) was segregated from non-ACBM (wood, steel, etc.). All ACBM was placed in plastic lined dumpsters(burrito wrap) and disposed of at the Hill County Landfill in “Havre, MT, 40 miles from the project site.
- In addition, surface soil samples would be collected adjacent to the runway to demonstrate that during the fires, asbestos has not migrated to these soils.



Future Use

- Prior to the purchase of the homes in (2013), The site was a popular recreation site for people looking to enjoy a walk or bike ride away from the mosquitos.
- Reuse site for its intended purpose as an airstrip/runway for medical emergencies, business, etc.



Questions?

Contact Info:

Adrian Kulbeck, Brownfields Coordinator
Fort Belknap Environmental Department
adrian.kulbeck@ftbelknap.org