# The North Carolina BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

20 years and \$14 Billion later...





#### NCDOR Advanced Seminar

Sheraton Four Seasons Greensboro, NC September 22, 2017

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### Brownfields Property Reuse Act of 1997

- Create special class of remediating parties...
  "Prospective Developer" of brownfields sites
- First, make sure PD did not cause or contribute to the contamination, then:
  - Provide liability protection to PD (\*and others\*) in return for measures PD agrees to take to make the property safe ("suitable") for reuse
  - Provide PD (\*and follow-on owners\*) with a partial property tax exclusion to assist in costs
  - Focus cleanup and risk mitigation efforts on risk prevention and land use restrictions

### Brownfields Agreement

- Brownfields Agreement (BFA): only available to a Prospective Developer who:
  - did not cause or contribute to site contamination;
  - desires to redevelop a brownfields property;
  - has a bona fide redevelopment plan; and
  - shows the redevelopment will have public benefit.
- The BFA does <u>not</u> affect the state's ability to enforce against the Responsible Party (RP)
- Properties listed on EPA's National Priorities List are not eligible for BFA (the *only* class of property not eligible by statute)

### Brownfields Agreement

- Defines the actions PD must take to make the site safe for the PD's intended reuse... using a combination of:
  - Site-specific, risk-based cleanup decisions
  - Land use restrictions that run with the land
- Recorded at the county Register of Deeds... thus becoming part of the Public Record
- Functions as a "Covenant-Not-to-Sue," providing PD with liability protection from state enforcement in regard to existing site contamination
- Liability protection is subject to PD's completion of necessary "safe-making" actions

### Roles

#### Federal Program

#### State Program

Funding to States

NC Brownfields
Program received
\$730,000 last year.

Competitive Brownfields Grants to Local Governments

\$2.8 M for NC projects in the last two years.

Liability Protection to Prospective Developers

Brownfields Agreement

Guidance for Safe Redevelopment

Brownfields Agreement
Deed Recordation

Tax Incentives to PD

Special BF property partial tax exclusion

## Economic Development Benefits that are facilitated by the N.C. Brownfields Program

- Defined and limited environmental liability
  - Covenant not-to-sue contingent on making site safe
- Break Barriers to Financing (by statute, lenders get same liability protections)
- Financial/Tax Incentives
- Controlled and Defined Cleanup Costs
- Land Use Planning/Decisions
- Addressing Public Health Concerns
- Risk Communication to Public
- Return on Investment

## Goal: Something For Everyone

#### NCDEQ / EPA

- Risk Reduction / Public Protection
- Smart Growth
- Sustainability

#### **Prospective**

#### **Developer**

- Reduced Uncertainty
- Liability Protection
- Profit

#### **Local Govt.**

- Economic Devel.
- Jobs
- Sustainability
- Risk Reduction

#### **Lender**

- ReducedUncertainty
- Liability Protection
- Profit

#### **Neighbors**

- EconomicBenefits, Jobs
- Risk Reduction
- Blight Reduction

### From: Former Almont Shipping Co.

### To: PPD World Headquarters - Wilmington



Abandoned Fertilizer Stockyard/Shipping Facility





PPD World Headquarters in downtown Wilmington, 400,000-ft<sup>2</sup>, and 1,800 workers



## From: Former Alpha Mill To: Alpha Mill Apartments



Abandoned Textile Mill, circa 1888 and Chromium Electroplater, circa 1955



Alpha Mill Apartments bordering uptown Charlotte

Preservation of historic architectural heritage

## From: Former Asheville Mica Co. To: Mica Village Lofts



Abandoned Mica Plant, circa 1905 in Biltmore Village, Asheville

Green building redevelopment as Mica Village Loft Condominiums

### From: Alamac Textiles to Penco To: Penco Metal Products - Hamilton



School locker manufacturer relocates two manufacturing operations to 400,000 ft<sup>2</sup> former textile mill.

- Hamilton, Martin County (Rural)
- 300 manufacturing jobs replaced those lost when Alamac Textiles went bankrupt & ceased operations
- Brownfields Agreement facilitated N.C. Dept. of Commerce recruitment of out-of-state redeveloper

## From: Pillowtex Plant 1 To: NC Research Campus - Kannapolis



Former Pillowtex and Cannon Mills on 150 acres in Kannapolis

Largest single layoff in State history (4800 jobs lost)



North Carolina Research Campus

David Murdock/Dole/University
Public-Private Venture Nutrition/Ag
Research Park

\$500 M - \$1 B investment

Core Labs built, more to follow

## From: Former Pilot Mill To: Pilot Mill Office Complex - Raleigh



Abandoned Turn of the Century Textile Mill Slated For Demolition

Tax Value:\$200,000

Tax Value:\$200,000



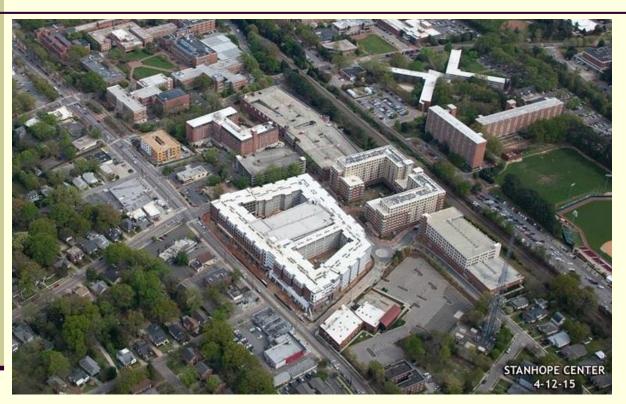
Fully Leased Office Complex on National Register of Historic Places

Value over \$13 million

Value over \$13 million

Spurred Neighborhood investment of \$100 million

## From: Former NC Equipment Co. To: Dorm and Residential Development



Former heavy equipment sales and servicing facility and bulk oil terminal

Initial tax value: \$4.1 million Est'd cleanup cost: ~\$450,000

Value over \$140 million Actual cleanup cost: ~\$50,000

Fully leased 600-unit residential complex: "Stanhope Center" and "Valentine Commons," provides much needed student housing for NCSU, additional commercial retail space

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