

**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PUBLIC NOTICE START DATE: August 21, 2023

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: October 5, 2023

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (“Commission”) is considering adoption of amendments to state brownfield regulations to establish a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) Program. The state regulations affected by the proposed amendments are Mississippi Administrative Code, Title 11 Part 3, Chapter 2: Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality Final Regulations Governing Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment in Mississippi (Adopted May 27, 1999, Last Amended February 28, 2002). The proposed regulation amendments will be applicable statewide.

I. Substance of the proposed actions:

1. Amendments to 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt 3 Ch. 2, to add Subchapter 3 “Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund” and associated regulations regarding the establishment of a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) program to issue loans and/or subgrants to eligible applicants for the cleanup of eligible brownfield sites, to require participation as a Brownfield Party, and to comply with federal requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This action is a response to USEPA awarding MDEQ a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grant and to meet requirements under the grant award’s terms and conditions. The proposed amendments are intended to require a BRLF applicant to receive approval for a Brownfield Agreement as a Brownfield Party by the Commission to be eligible to receive a loan or subgrant and to ensure that a recipient of a loan or subgrant complies with all terms and conditions as required by USEPA in use of these funds.

II. Manner by Which the Public May Comment.

The proposed regulation amendments may be reviewed in the offices of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), 515 E. Amite St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by contacting Ms. Deidre Thompson, Public Records Administrator at 601-961-5171. For persons with internet access, the proposed regulation amendments may be found on the MDEQ website at <http://mdeq.ms.gov/brownfields>.

Members of the public may present verbal or written comments during the public hearing described below or by submitting written statements to MDEQ, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225. Any written statements regarding the proposed regulation amendments will be a part of the public hearing record if received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 15, 2023. Such delivery should be made to the attention of Mr. Thomas Wallace to the mailing address shown above or to the physical address shown below.

III. Notice of Public Hearing.

The hearing will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room (Room 104A) at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

IV. Additional Information.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Thomas Wallace at 601-961-5171.