

Tribal Brownfields Response Program

SUBMITTED BY LILY BERMEJO

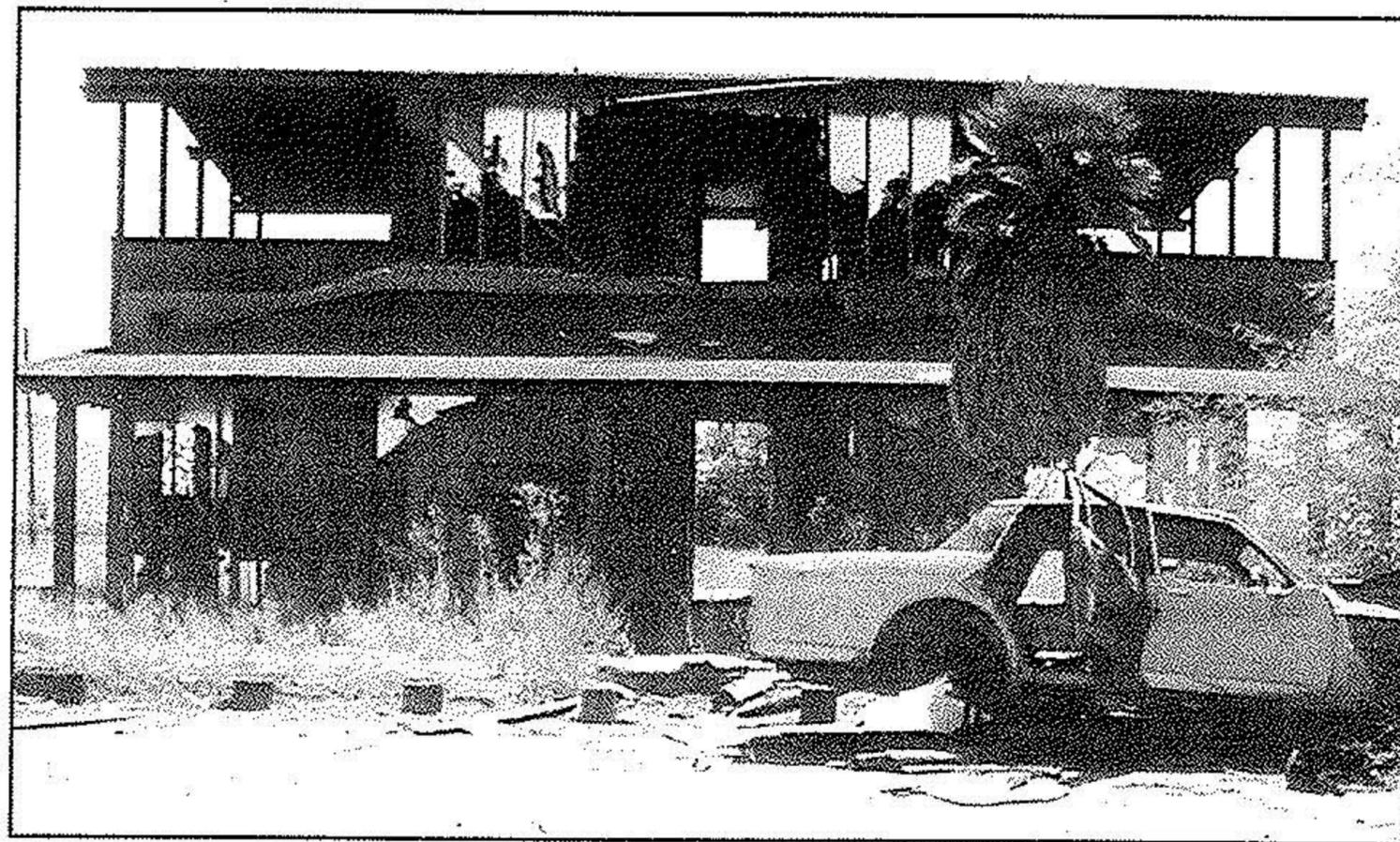
Senior Environmental Specialist

What is a Brownfields site? Is there a difference between an illegal dump site and a Brownfields site?

If you have been reading the papers in the last months, you may have read here or there something about Brownfields. If you have not, no worries, we are about to clue you in.

A Brownfields site is any property such as land or an abandoned building that is undeveloped and unused due to perceived or actual contamination on the site. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a Brownfields as a "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." In essence, a site that is victim to illegal dumping, may also be a Brownfields site. An illegal dump site could have solid waste, such as household material and/or commercial waste. Among this solid waste, there could be hazardous materials, there could be used oil buckets, or drums, roof shingles with asbestos or many other potential contaminants. Once this illegal dumping site is determined to have more than just solid waste, and containing hazardous waste, it may fall into the category of a Brownfields site.

Does this mean that every illegal dump site is a Brownfields site? No, but it could also lead to encouraging



Abandoned Cattle Feedlot building on Mc Donald Dr. and Mesa Dr. Currently being cleaned up under Brownfields EPA Grant.

others to dump more waste into that same site. Therefore, any illegal dump site and/or Brownfields site should be reported to the SRPMIC's Community Development Department Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Division (CDD/EPNR).

Other examples of a Brownfields site could also include abandoned warehouses, abandoned industrial businesses, old buildings, old meth lab houses, abandoned gas stations, old landfills, and mine scarred lands. A Brownfields site can be any site where hazardous substances and petroleum products were stored, used, applied or disposed of. The different contamination left behind from the regular use of hazardous materials and their mismanagement may have

left behind a site in need of environmental remediation. There may have also been contamination of hazardous substances such as pesticides, later discovered to be harmful, and now making this site a potential Brownfields site.

If you know of any site that could potentially qualify as a Brownfields please report it to us. You may contact us at the CDD/EPNR Hotline at 480-362-7500. Online at <http://www.srpmic-nsn.gov/government/epnr/brownfields.asp>. Or in person at 10005 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256 (Two Waters, Building B). You may also mail a request for information to the same address, Attention: CDD/EPNR c/o Lily Bermejo.