

Calais – December 16, 2010 – The Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG) has announced the completion of Brownfields site investigations at 15 Sea Street in Eastport, the Machias Cleaners and Laundry in Machias, Antone's Triangle in Pembroke and the Bridges Property in Calais. An overview of the assessment findings will be presented at the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce *Business After Hours* at 5:00 pm at the Bluebird Ranch Restaurant on January 20, 2011. The public and area businesses are welcome to attend.

Located on Eastport's historic waterfront, the former American Can building at 15 Sea Street is part of a redevelopment initiative sponsored by Meg McGarvey and her partners at Dirigamus, LLC. The Machias Cleaners and Laundry property is adjacent to the historic Burnham Tavern in Machias, and is being considered for a number of reuse initiatives by the Town and current owner. Antone's Triangle and the Bridges Property were former gasoline stations and are located on high-visibility lots well suited for redevelopment.

The goal of the WCCOG's Brownfields Assessment Program is to promote the re-use of properties where redevelopment is impeded by real or perceived environmental contamination. "We have made tremendous progress over the first year of our grant and have several more projects at hand throughout Washington County," commented Judy East, executive director of WCCOG. WCCOG has initiated three additional investigations at Brownfields sites in the communities of Harrington, Eastport and Jonesboro.

In May, 2009 WCCOG was awarded a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Under the USEPA Grant, WCCOG will work with willing and interested property owners where an environmental assessment may lead to successful redevelopment.

For more information about the Brownfields program or to submit a site for consideration, go to the Washington County Brownfields web page at: www.wccogbrownfields.com or contact Judy East (454-0465) or Jeremy Gabrielson (255-0983).

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