Jamestown Responds to Possible Environmental Hazards

As part of the EPA Brownfields Tribal Response Program, Natural Resources staff members Lori DeLorm and Pam Edens inspect Jamestown Tribal properties where there is known or suspected environmental contamination. They are looking for things like oil or gas spills, asbestos or lead in buildings, containers of unknown substances, trash or debris piles, chemical odors or unexplained stains on the ground. They take note of anything suspicious to determine if the property needs a closer inspection by a certified environmental specialist.

On July 14, Lori and Pam inspected four Tribal properties: the Pederson and Blackstone properties near the River Center, the newly purchased storage buildings in Carlsborg and the Strom property in Blyn. The purpose of the EPA Brownfields Tribal Response Program is to identify potential hazardous contamination on Tribal property, to assess its severity, and to clean it up so the property can be reused or developed. The overall goal is the protection of human health and the environment.

During this inspection, Lori and Pam found some possible environmental contaminants in the old trailer on the Blackstone property. This trailer has been on the property since it was purchased by the Tribe and has been used over the years to store River Center materials. An inspection of the inside of the trailer revealed damaged flooring and insulation which will need further investigation to determine if it is made from hazardous materials. The plan is to remove or demolish the trailer but before that can be done the Tribe will hire a specialist to sample the material and if it is hazardous it will be disposed of properly.

If you know of or suspect any contamination on or adjacent to Tribal properties, please contact either Lori DeLorm (360-681-4619) or Pam Edens (360-681-4658) in the Tribe's Natural Resources Department.

Powell Jones, River Center Education Coordinator, opens the Blackstone trailer for Lori and Pam (not shown) to inspect for possible environmental contamination.