



NH ODD Fund Case Study

100 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham

Overview

The 100 Portsmouth Avenue project successfully coordinated Oil Discharge and Disposal Cleanup Fund (ODD Fund) and ARRA assistance to keep an existing business in operation. The property was a former gas station with a contaminated water supply. DES assistance with the water supply, removal of a buried underground tank and establishment of eligibility for the ODD Fund provided much needed relief for the overwhelmed, 21-year old that inherited the property.

History

This property was originally developed as a gas station in the 1950s. It was converted into a retail flower store after the gas station closed, and in 1988 it became a retail bakery. The owner of the property and bakery business died suddenly and his 21-year old son inherited the property and business. During the son's financial struggles to keep the business running, he dropped out of college and worked full time at the business. After falling behind on mortgage payments and taxes, the son considered selling the business. During his investigation into putting the property on the market, he noticed a water treatment system in the basement. He eventually discovered the reason for the water treatment system in the basement – the property was formerly a gas station and the water supply was contaminated.

At A Glance:

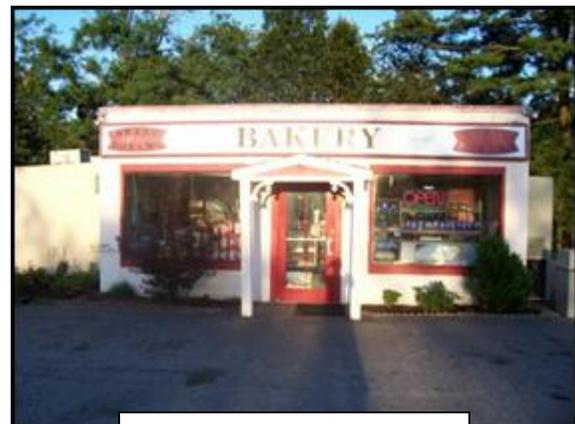
Site Location: Stratham, NH

Site Profile: former gas station, currently a bakery

Funding: Stimulus \$9,416, approved ODD Fund \$3,093, \$7,000 POE contract

Outcomes:

- DES helped a young man that inherited a bakery after his father died suddenly. The son was behind on property tax and mortgage payments.
- DES upgraded the water system, and found and removed a leaking underground storage tank.
- ODD Fund eligibility was established and the owner now has the ability to sell the business or refinance.



Picture of the Bakery

Environmental Assessment and Cleanup

He consulted with an environmental consultant. The environmental consultant discussed the issues informally with DES and an approach to assist the business was developed and shared with the property owner. After everyone agreed on the approach, DES moved quickly to upgrade the water system to ensure that the gasoline contamination was reliably removed from the water supply. The existing system was leaky (see picture) and was not in operation. DES then used federal stimulus funds to locate and remove a leaky underground gasoline tank that was still present at the property. The underground storage tank removal helped to establish eligibility for the ODD Fund, which will be used to meet stimulus funding cost recovery obligations. A site investigation was requested after the review of the underground storage tank removal report and the field work for the site investigation has been completed. The site investigation cost will be reimbursed by the ODD Fund.



Picture of leaky water treatment system in bypass mode.

Project Success

The bakery is still and business and the owner has options. He can refinance the business or sell it. Without ODD Fund eligibility, it would be impossible to obtain bank financing based on the potential environmental issues at the property. The bakery business is currently ranked #2 by Trip Advisor for Stratham restaurants.