



# Secrecy is Toxic

You have the right to know

CRTK Fact Sheet

## Accessing Records of Site Condition (RSC) for Brownfield Redevelopments

### What do information do RSCs provide?

Brownfields are lands on which polluting industrial or commercial activity took place in the past and are contaminated with pollutants. New clean up standards for redeveloping brown field sites came into effect October 1, 2005. Property owners must now publicly file a Record of Site Condition (RSC) when redeveloping a site. A RSC shows that the property must have been properly assessed and shown to meet the soil, sediment and groundwater standards appropriate for the redeveloped use (i.e. residential housing), and what actions will be taken if site cleanup is needed (i.e. contaminated soil removal).

### How do I access RSCs?

Go to <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/BESR/index.htm> and click on the Public Search hot button on the top right of the webpage. You can search by municipality, street name (when using this option type street name only and not designation i.e. type Dufferin and not Dufferin St.), or property owner.

### What information does the RSC registration system leave out?

This type of registration is only necessary when the Brownfield is being redeveloped for a different purpose (i.e. switching from industrial to commercial or residential). The RSC registry requires mandatory posting of RSCs for sites that have been redeveloped after October 2005. Before this date the Registry was a voluntary endeavour. This information is only publicly posted once assessment and clean up activities have been proposed and approved by the government. For example, if a gas station is in your area and is being redeveloped, the RSC would have no information available to the public until the approvals process is completed, leaving the public no room to get involved with the process through this registry.

RSCs represent findings and decisions at a certain point in time. Therefore RSCs can become out of date. RSCs won't contain details of the studies or the decision making process leading up to the RSC, leaving it unclear what options, alternatives and data were considered.

### Why are RSCs useful?

This information allows you to identify former Brownfield sites and let you know what was done to remediate the site. The chart available for each record shows the levels of tested contaminants on the site after it has been remediated.