CHAPTER 2003-173

House Bill No. 1123

An act relating to site rehabilitation of contaminated sites; creating s. 376.30701, F.S.; extending application of risk-based corrective action principles to all contaminated sites resulting from a discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances; providing for contamination cleanup criteria that incorporate risk-based corrective action principles to be adopted by rule; providing clarification that cleanup criteria do not apply to offsite relocation or treatment; providing the conditions under which further rehabilitation may be required; amending s. 199.1055, F.S.; clarifying who may apply for tax credits; clarifying time period for use of tax credits; amending s. 220.1845, F.S.; clarifying who may apply for tax credits; clarifying time period for use of tax credits; allowing tax credit applicants to claim credit on a consolidated return up to the amount of the consolidated group's tax liability; amending s. 376.30781, F.S.; clarifying who may apply for tax credits; converting tax credit application time period to calendar year; moving application deadline to January 15; clarifying that placeholder applications are prohibited; amending s. 403.087, F.S.; limiting a hazardous waste corrective action permit fee; amending s. 403.722, F.S.; requiring a corrective action permit for certain actions affecting a hazardous waste disposal facility; conforming references governing transferability of tax credits; eliminating outdated language; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 376.30701, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

376.30701 Application of risk-based corrective action principles to contaminated sites; applicability; legislative intent; rulemaking authority; contamination cleanup criteria; limitations; reopeners.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—

(a) This section shall not create or establish any new liability for site rehabilitation at contaminated sites. This section is intended to describe a risk-based corrective action process to be applied at sites where legal responsibility for site rehabilitation exists pursuant to other provisions of this chapter or chapter 403. An exceedance of any cleanup target level derived from the cleanup criteria established in subsection (2) shall not, at sites where legal responsibility for site rehabilitation does not exist pursuant to other provisions of this chapter or chapter 403, create liability for site rehabilitation. This section may also apply to other contaminated sites at which a person conducting site rehabilitation elects to have it apply, even where such person does not have legal responsibility for site rehabilitation pursuant to this chapter or chapter 403. This section and any rules adopted pursuant thereto, including the cleanup criteria described in subsection (2), shall not create additional authority to prohibit or limit the legal placement of materials or products on land.

(b) This section shall apply to all contaminated sites resulting from a discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances where legal responsibility for site rehabilitation exists pursuant to other provisions of this chapter or chapter 403, except for those contaminated sites subject to the risk-based corrective action cleanup criteria established for the petroleum, brownfields, and drycleaning programs pursuant to ss. 376.3071, 376.81, and 376.3078, respectively.

(c) This section shall apply to a variety of site rehabilitation scenarios including, but not limited to, site rehabilitation conducted voluntarily, site rehabilitation conducted pursuant to the department's enforcement authority, or site rehabilitation conducted as a state-managed cleanup by the department.

(d) This section, and any rules adopted pursuant thereto, shall apply retroactively to all existing contaminated sites where legal responsibility for site rehabilitation exists pursuant to other provisions of this chapter or chapter 403, except those sites for which cleanup target levels have been accepted by the department in an approved technical document, current permit, or other written agreement and except at those sites that have received a "No Further Action" order or a "Site Rehabilitation Completion" order from the department. However, the person responsible for site rehabilitation can elect to have the provisions of this section, including cleanup target levels established pursuant thereto, apply in lieu of those in an approved technical document, current permit, or other written agreement.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or delay actions to respond to a discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances prior to any contact with the department. The risk-based corrective action process contemplates appropriate emergency response action or initial remedial action prior to any formal application of the risk-based corrective action process involving site assessment and, if required, subsequent remedial action. Any emergency response actions or initial remedial actions must be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(2) INTENT; RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; CLEANUP CRITERIA.—It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the health of all people under actual circumstances of exposure. By July 1, 2004, the secretary of the department shall establish criteria by rule for the purpose of determining, on a site-specific basis, the rehabilitation program tasks that comprise a site rehabilitation program, including a voluntary site rehabilitation program, and the level at which a rehabilitation program task and a site rehabilitation program may be deemed completed. In establishing these rules, the department shall apply, to the maximum extent feasible, a risk-based corrective action process to achieve protection of human health and safety and the environment in a cost-effective manner based on the principles set forth in this subsection. These rules shall prescribe a phased risk-based corrective action process that is iterative and that tailors site rehabilitation tasks to site-specific conditions and risks. The department and the person responsible for site rehabilitation are encouraged to establish decision points at which risk management decisions will be made. The department shall pro-

vide an early decision, when requested, regarding applicable exposure factors and a risk management approach based on the current and future land use at the site. These rules shall also include protocols for the use of natural attenuation, the use of institutional and engineering controls, and the issuance of "No Further Action" orders. The criteria for determining what constitutes a rehabilitation program task or completion of a site rehabilitation program task or site rehabilitation program, including a voluntary site rehabilitation program, must:

(a) Consider the current exposure and potential risk of exposure to humans and the environment, including multiple pathways of exposure. The physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of each contaminant must be considered in order to determine the feasibility of a risk-based corrective action assessment.

(b) Establish the point of compliance at the source of the contamination. However, the department is authorized to temporarily move the point of compliance to the boundary of the property, or to the edge of the plume when the plume is within the property boundary, while cleanup, including cleanup through natural attenuation processes in conjunction with appropriate monitoring, is proceeding. The department also is authorized, pursuant to criteria provided in this section, to temporarily extend the point of compliance beyond the property boundary with appropriate monitoring, if such extension is needed to facilitate natural attenuation or to address the current conditions of the plume, provided human health, public safety, and the environment are protected. When temporarily extending the point of compliance beyond the property boundary, it cannot be extended further than the lateral extent of the plume, if known, at the time of execution of a cleanup agreement, if required, or the lateral extent of the plume as defined at the time of site assessment. Temporary extension of the point of compliance beyond the property boundary, as provided in this paragraph, must include actual notice by the person responsible for site rehabilitation to local governments and the owners of any property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend and constructive notice to residents and business tenants of the property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend. Persons receiving notice pursuant to this paragraph shall have the opportunity to comment within 30 days after receipt of the notice. Additional notice concerning the status of natural attenuation processes shall be similarly provided to persons receiving notice pursuant to this paragraph every 5 years.

(c) Ensure that the site-specific cleanup goal is that all contaminated sites being cleaned up pursuant to this section ultimately achieve the applicable cleanup target levels provided in this subsection. In the circumstances provided in this subsection, and after constructive notice and opportunity to comment within 30 days after receipt of the notice to local government, owners of any property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend, and residents of any property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend, the department may allow concentrations of contaminants to temporarily exceed the applicable cleanup target levels while cleanup, including cleanup through natural attenuation processes in con-

junction with appropriate monitoring, is proceeding, if human health, public safety, and the environment are protected.

(d) Allow the use of institutional or engineering controls at contaminated sites being cleaned up pursuant to this section, where appropriate, to eliminate or control the potential exposure to contaminants of humans or the environment. The use of controls must be preapproved by the department and only after constructive notice and opportunity to comment within 30 days after receipt of notice is provided to local governments, owners of any property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend, and residents on any property into which the point of compliance is allowed to extend. When institutional or engineering controls are implemented to control exposure, the removal of the controls must have prior department approval and must be accompanied by the resumption of active cleanup, or other approved controls, unless cleanup target levels under this section have been achieved.

(e) Consider the additive effects of contaminants. The synergistic and antagonistic effects shall also be considered when the scientific data become available.

(f) Take into consideration individual site characteristics, which shall include, but not be limited to, the current and projected use of the affected groundwater and surface water in the vicinity of the site, current and projected land uses of the area affected by the contamination, the exposed population, the degree and extent of contamination, the rate of contaminant migration, the apparent or potential rate of contaminant degradation through natural attenuation processes, the location of the plume, and the potential for further migration in relation to site property boundaries.

(g) Apply state water quality standards as follows:

1. Cleanup target levels for each contaminant found in groundwater shall be the applicable state water quality standards. Where such standards do not exist, the cleanup target levels for groundwater shall be based on the minimum criteria specified in department rule. The department shall apply the following, as appropriate, in establishing the applicable cleanup target levels: calculations using a lifetime cancer risk level of 1.0E-6; a hazard index of 1 or less; the best achievable detection limit; and nuisance, organoleptic, and aesthetic considerations. However, the department shall not require site rehabilitation to achieve a cleanup target level for any individual contaminant that is more stringent than the site-specific, naturally occurring background concentration for that contaminant.

2. Where surface waters are exposed to contaminated groundwater, the cleanup target levels for the contaminants shall be based on the more protective of the groundwater or surface water standards as established by department rule. The point of measuring compliance with the surface water standards shall be in the groundwater immediately adjacent to the surface water body.

3. Using risk-based corrective action principles, the department shall approve alternative cleanup target levels in conjunction with institutional

and engineering controls, if needed, based upon an applicant's demonstration, using site-specific data, modeling results, risk assessment studies, risk reduction techniques, or a combination thereof, that human health, public safety, and the environment are protected to the same degree as provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. Where a state water quality standard is applicable, a deviation may not result in the application of cleanup target levels more stringent than the standard. In determining whether it is appropriate to establish alternative cleanup target levels at a site, the department must consider the effectiveness of source removal, if any, that has been completed at the site and the practical likelihood of the use of low yield or poor quality groundwater, the use of groundwater near marine surface water bodies, the current and projected use of the affected groundwater in the vicinity of the site, or the use of groundwater in the immediate vicinity of the contaminated area, where it has been demonstrated that the groundwater contamination is not migrating away from such localized source, provided human health, public safety, and the environment are protected. Groundwater resource protection remains the ultimate goal of cleanup, particularly in light of the state's continued growth and consequent demands for drinking water resources. The Legislature recognizes the need for a protective yet flexible cleanup approach that risk-based corrective action provides. Only where it is appropriate on a site-specific basis, using the criteria in this paragraph and careful evaluation by the department, shall proposed alternative cleanup target levels be approved.

(h) Provide for the department to issue a "No Further Action" order, with conditions, including, but not limited to, the use of institutional or engineering controls where appropriate, when alternative cleanup target levels established pursuant to subparagraph (g)3. have been achieved or when the person responsible for site rehabilitation can demonstrate that the cleanup target level is unachievable with the use of available technologies. Prior to issuing such an order, the department shall consider the feasibility of an alternative site rehabilitation technology at the contaminated site.

(i) Establish appropriate cleanup target levels for soils. Although there are existing state water quality standards, there are no existing state soil quality standards. The Legislature does not intend, through the adoption of this section, to create such soil quality standards. The specific rulemaking authority granted pursuant to this section merely authorizes the department to establish appropriate soil cleanup target levels. These soil cleanup target levels shall be applicable at sites only after a determination as to legal responsibility for site rehabilitation has been made pursuant to other provisions of this chapter or chapter 403.

1. In establishing soil cleanup target levels for human exposure to each contaminant found in soils from the land surface to 2 feet below land surface, the department shall apply the following, as appropriate: calculations using a lifetime cancer risk level of 1.0E-6; a hazard index of 1 or less; and the best achievable detection limit. However, the department shall not require site rehabilitation to achieve a cleanup target level for an individual contaminant that is more stringent than the site-specific, naturally occurring background concentration for that contaminant. Institutional controls or other methods shall be used to prevent human exposure to contaminated soils

more than 2 feet below the land surface. Any removal of such institutional controls shall require such contaminated soils to be remediated.

2. Leachability-based soil cleanup target levels shall be based on protection of the groundwater cleanup target levels or the alternate cleanup target levels for groundwater established pursuant to this paragraph, as appropriate. Source removal and other cost-effective alternatives that are technologically feasible shall be considered in achieving the leachability soil cleanup target levels established by the department. The leachability goals shall not be applicable if the department determines, based upon individual site characteristics, and in conjunction with institutional and engineering controls, if needed, that contaminants will not leach into the groundwater at levels that pose a threat to human health, public safety, and the environment.

3. Using risk-based corrective action principles, the department shall approve alternative cleanup target levels in conjunction with institutional and engineering controls, if needed, based upon an applicant's demonstration, using site-specific data, modeling results, risk assessment studies, risk reduction techniques, or a combination thereof, that human health, public safety, and the environment are protected to the same degree as provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2.

The department shall require source removal as a risk reduction measure if warranted and cost-effective. Once source removal at a site is complete, the department shall reevaluate the site to determine the degree of active cleanup needed to continue. Further, the department shall determine if the reevaluated site qualifies for monitoring only or if no further action is required to rehabilitate the site. If additional site rehabilitation is necessary to reach "No Further Action" status, the department is encouraged to utilize natural attenuation and monitoring where site conditions warrant.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The cleanup criteria established pursuant to this section govern only site rehabilitation activities occurring at the contaminated site. Removal of contaminated media from a site for offsite relocation or treatment must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(4) REOPENERS.—Upon completion of site rehabilitation in compliance with subsection (2), additional site rehabilitation is not required unless it is demonstrated that:

(a) Fraud was committed in demonstrating site conditions or completion of site rehabilitation;

(b) New information confirms the existence of an area of previously unknown contamination which exceeds the site-specific rehabilitation levels established in accordance with subsection (2), or which otherwise poses the threat of real and substantial harm to public health, safety, or the environment;

(c) The remediation efforts failed to achieve the site rehabilitation criteria established under this section;

(d) The level of risk is increased beyond the acceptable risk established under subsection (2) due to substantial changes in exposure conditions, such as a change in land use from nonresidential to residential use. Any person who changes the land use of the site, thereby causing the level of risk to increase beyond the acceptable risk level, may be required by the department to undertake additional remediation measures to ensure that human health, public safety, and the environment are protected consistent with this section; or

(e) A new discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances occurs at the site subsequent to the issuance of a "No Further Action" order or a "Site Rehabilitation Completion" order associated with the original contamination being addressed pursuant to this section.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 199.1055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

199.1055 Contaminated site rehabilitation tax credit.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR TAX CREDIT; LIMITATIONS.—

(a) A credit in the amount of 35 percent of the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site rehabilitation at the following sites is available ~~allowed~~ against any tax due for a taxable year under s. 199.032, less any credit allowed by former s. 220.68 for that year:

1. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site eligible for state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3);

2. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site at which cleanup is undertaken by the real property owner pursuant to s. 376.3078(11), if the real property owner is not also, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists; or

3. A brownfield site in a designated brownfield area under s. 376.80.

(b) A tax credit applicant, or multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayer, or multiple taxpayers~~ working jointly to clean up a single site, may not be granted ~~receive~~ more than $250,000 per year in tax credits for each site voluntarily rehabilitated. Multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayers~~ shall be granted ~~receive~~ tax credits in the same proportion as their contribution to payment of cleanup costs. Subject to the same conditions and limitations as provided in this section, a municipality, ~~or~~ county, or other tax credit applicant which voluntarily rehabilitates a site may receive not more than $250,000 per year in tax credits which it can subsequently transfer subject to the provisions in paragraph (g).

(c) If the credit granted under this section is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. Five years after the date a credit is granted under this section, such credit expires and may not be used. However, if during the 5-year period the credit is transferred, in whole or in part, pursuant to para-

graph (g), each transferee has 5 years after the date of transfer to use its credit.

(d) A taxpayer that receives a credit under s. 220.1845 is ineligible to receive credit under this section in a given tax year.

(e) A tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ that receives state-funded site rehabilitation pursuant to s. 376.3078(3) for rehabilitation of a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site is ineligible to receive credit under this section for costs incurred by the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ in conjunction with the rehabilitation of that site during the same time period that state-administered site rehabilitation was underway.

(f) The total amount of the tax credits which may be granted under this section and s. 220.1845 is $2 million annually.

(g)1. Tax credits that may be available under this section to an entity eligible under s. 376.30781 may be transferred after a merger or acquisition to the surviving or acquiring entity and used in the same manner with the same limitations.

2. The entity or its surviving or acquiring entity as described in subparagraph 1., may transfer any unused credit in whole or in units of no less than 25 percent of the remaining credit. The entity acquiring such credit may use it in the same manner and with the same limitation as described in this section. Such transferred credits may not be transferred again although they may succeed to a surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations as described in this section.

3. In the event the credit provided for under this section is reduced either as a result of a determination by the Department of Environmental Protection or an examination or audit by the Department of Revenue, such tax deficiency shall be recovered from the first entity, or the surviving or acquiring entity, to have claimed such credit up to the amount of credit taken. Any subsequent deficiencies shall be assessed against any entity acquiring and claiming such credit, or in the case of multiple succeeding entities in the order of credit succession.

(h) In order to encourage completion of site rehabilitation at contaminated sites being voluntarily cleaned up and eligible for a tax credit under this section, the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ may claim an additional 10 percent of the total cleanup costs, not to exceed $50,000, in the final year of cleanup as evidenced by the Department of Environmental Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 220.1845, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.1845 Contaminated site rehabilitation tax credit.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR TAX CREDIT; LIMITATIONS.—

(a) A credit in the amount of 35 percent of the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site rehabilitation at the following sites is available ~~allowed~~ against any tax due for a taxable year under this chapter:

1. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site eligible for state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3);

2. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site at which cleanup is undertaken by the real property owner pursuant to s. 376.3078(11), if the real property owner is not also, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists; or

3. A brownfield site in a designated brownfield area under s. 376.80.

(b) A tax credit applicant, or multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayer, or multiple taxpayers~~ working jointly to clean up a single site, may not be granted ~~receive~~ more than $250,000 per year in tax credits for each site voluntarily rehabilitated. Multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayers~~ shall be granted ~~receive~~ tax credits in the same proportion as their contribution to payment of cleanup costs. Subject to the same conditions and limitations as provided in this section, a municipality, ~~or~~ county, or other tax credit applicant which voluntarily rehabilitates a site may receive not more than $250,000 per year in tax credits which it can subsequently transfer subject to the provisions in paragraph (h).

(c) If the credit granted under this section is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the corporation, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter for that year exceeds the credit for which the corporation is eligible in that year under this section after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided by s. 220.02(8). Five years after the date a credit is granted under this section, such credit expires and may not be used. However, if during the 5-year period the credit is transferred, in whole or in part, pursuant to paragraph (h), each transferee has 5 years after the date of transfer to use its credit.

(d) A taxpayer that files a consolidated return in this state as a member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may be allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis up to the amount of tax imposed upon the consolidated group ~~and paid by the taxpayer that incurred the rehabilitation costs~~.

(e) A taxpayer that receives credit under s. 199.1055 is ineligible to receive credit under this section in a given tax year.

(f) A tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ that receives state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3) for rehabilitation of a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site is ineligible to receive credit under this section for costs incurred by the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ in conjunction with the rehabilitation of that site during the same time period that state-administered site rehabilitation was underway.

(g) The total amount of the tax credits which may be granted under this section and s. 199.1055 is $2 million annually.

(h)1. Tax credits that may be available under this section to an entity eligible under s. 376.30781 may be transferred after a merger or acquisition

to the surviving or acquiring entity and used in the same manner and with the same limitations.

2. The entity or its surviving or acquiring entity as described in subparagraph 1., may transfer any unused credit in whole or in units of no less than 25 percent of the remaining credit. The entity acquiring such credit may use it in the same manner and with the same limitation as described in this section. Such transferred credits may not be transferred again although they may succeed to a surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations as described in this section.

3. In the event the credit provided for under this section is reduced either as a result of a determination by the Department of Environmental Protection or an examination or audit by the Department of Revenue, such tax deficiency shall be recovered from the first entity, or the surviving or acquiring entity, to have claimed such credit up to the amount of credit taken. Any subsequent deficiencies shall be assessed against any entity acquiring and claiming such credit, or in the case of multiple succeeding entities in the order of credit succession.

(i) In order to encourage completion of site rehabilitation at contaminated sites being voluntarily cleaned up and eligible for a tax credit under this section, the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ may claim an additional 10 percent of the total cleanup costs, not to exceed $50,000, in the final year of cleanup as evidenced by the Department of Environmental Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site.

Section 4. Section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

376.30781 Partial tax credits for rehabilitation of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority; revocation authority.—

(1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) To facilitate property transactions and economic growth and development, it is in the interest of the state to encourage the cleanup, at the earliest possible time, of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the voluntary cleanup of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas by providing a partial tax credit for the restoration of such property in specified circumstances.

(2)(a) A credit in the amount of 35 percent of the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site rehabilitation at the following sites is allowed pursuant to ss. 199.1055 and 220.1845:

1. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site eligible for state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3);

2. A drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site at which cleanup is undertaken by the real property owner pursuant to s. 376.3078(11), if the real

property owner is not also, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists; or

3. A brownfield site in a designated brownfield area under s. 376.80.

(b) A tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~, or multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayers~~ working jointly to clean up a single site, may not be granted ~~receive~~ more than $250,000 per year in tax credits for each site voluntarily rehabilitated. Multiple tax credit applicants ~~taxpayers~~ shall be granted ~~receive~~ tax credits in the same proportion as their contribution to payment of cleanup costs. Tax credits are available only for site rehabilitation conducted during the calendar ~~tax~~ year for ~~in~~ which the tax credit application is submitted.

(c) In order to encourage completion of site rehabilitation at contaminated sites that are being voluntarily cleaned up and that are eligible for a tax credit under this section, the tax credit applicant may claim an additional 10 percent of the total cleanup costs, not to exceed $50,000, in the final year of cleanup as evidenced by the Department of Environmental Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site.

(3) The Department of Environmental Protection shall be responsible for allocating the tax credits provided for in ss. 199.1055 and 220.1845, not to exceed a total of $2 million in tax credits annually.

(4) To claim the credit for site rehabilitation conducted during the current calendar year, each tax credit applicant must apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for an allocation of the $2 million annual credit by January 15 of the following year ~~December 31~~ on a form developed by the Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with the Department of Revenue. The form shall include an affidavit from each tax credit applicant certifying that all information contained in the application, including all records of costs incurred and claimed in the tax credit application, are true and correct. If the application is submitted pursuant to subparagraph (2)(a)2., the form must include an affidavit signed by the real property owner stating that it is not, and has never been, the owner or operator of the drycleaning facility where the contamination exists. Approval of partial tax credits must be accomplished on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the date complete applications are received by the Division of Waste Management. A tax credit ~~An~~ applicant shall submit only one complete application per site for each calendar year's site rehabilitation costs. Incomplete placeholder applications shall not be accepted and will not secure a place in the first-come, first-served application line ~~per year~~. To be eligible for a tax credit the tax credit applicant must:

(a) Have entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site or a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement, as applicable; and

(b) Have paid all deductibles pursuant to s. 376.3078(3)(d) for eligible drycleaning-solvent-cleanup program sites.

(5) To obtain the tax credit certificate, a tax credit ~~an~~ applicant must annually file an application for certification, which must be received by the Division of Waste Management of the Department of Environmental Protection by January 15 of the year following the calendar year for which site rehabilitation costs are being claimed in a tax credit application ~~December 31~~. The tax credit applicant must provide all pertinent information requested on the tax credit application form, including, at a minimum, the name and address of the tax credit applicant and the address and tracking identification number of the eligible site. Along with the tax credit application form, the tax credit applicant must submit the following:

(a) A nonrefundable review fee of $250 made payable to the Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund to cover the administrative costs associated with the department's review of the tax credit application;

(b) Copies of contracts and documentation of contract negotiations, accounts, invoices, sales tickets, or other payment records from purchases, sales, leases, or other transactions involving actual costs incurred for that tax year related to site rehabilitation, as that term is defined in ss. 376.301 and 376.79;

(c) Proof that the documentation submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) has been reviewed and verified by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Specifically, the certified public accountant must attest to the accuracy and validity of the costs incurred and paid by conducting an independent review of the data presented by the tax credit applicant. Accuracy and validity of costs incurred and paid would be determined once the level of effort was certified by an appropriate professional registered in this state in each contributing technical discipline. The certified public accountant's report would also attest that the costs included in the application form are not duplicated within the application. A copy of the accountant's report shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection with the tax credit application; and

(d) A certification form stating that site rehabilitation activities associated with the documentation submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) have been conducted under the observation of, and related technical documents have been signed and sealed by, an appropriate professional registered in this state in each contributing technical discipline. The certification form shall be signed and sealed by the appropriate registered professionals stating that the costs incurred were integral, necessary, and required for site rehabilitation, as that term is defined in ss. 376.301 and 376.79.

(6) The certified public accountant and appropriate registered professionals submitting forms as part of a tax credit application must verify such forms. Verification must be accomplished as provided in s. 92.525(1)(b) and subject to the provisions of s. 92.525(3).

(7) The Department of Environmental Protection shall review the tax credit application and any supplemental documentation that the tax credit applicant may submit prior to the annual application deadline in order to have the application considered complete ~~submitted by each applicant~~, for

the purpose of verifying that the tax credit applicant has met the qualifying criteria in subsections (2) and (4) and has submitted all required documentation listed in subsection (5). Upon verification that the tax credit applicant has met these requirements, the department shall issue a written decision granting eligibility for partial tax credits (a tax credit certificate) in the amount of 35 percent of the total costs claimed, subject to the $250,000 limitation, for the calendar ~~tax~~ year for ~~in~~ which the tax credit application is submitted based on the report of the certified public accountant and the certifications from the appropriate registered technical professionals.

(8) On or before March 1, the Department of Environmental Protection shall inform each eligible tax credit applicant of the amount of its partial tax credit and provide each eligible tax credit applicant with a tax credit certificate that must be submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to s. 199.1055(1)(g) or s. 220.1845(1)(h). Credits will not result in the payment of refunds if total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.

(9) If a tax credit ~~an~~ applicant does not receive a tax credit allocation due to an exhaustion of the $2 million annual tax credit authorization, such application will then be included in the same first-come, first-served order in the next year's annual tax credit allocation, if any, based on the prior year application.

(10) The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt rules to prescribe the necessary forms required to claim tax credits under this section and to provide the administrative guidelines and procedures required to administer this section. ~~Prior to the adoption of rules regulating the tax credit application, the department shall, by September 1, 1998, establish reasonable interim application requirements and forms.~~

(11) The Department of Environmental Protection may revoke or modify any written decision granting eligibility for partial tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the tax credit applicant submitted any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed in an attempt to receive partial tax credits under this section. The Department of Environmental Protection shall immediately notify the Department of Revenue of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted partial tax credits. Additionally, the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ must notify the Department of Revenue of any change in its tax credit claimed.

(12) A tax credit applicant ~~An owner, operator, or real property owner~~ who receives state-funded site rehabilitation under s. 376.3078(3) for rehabilitation of a drycleaning-solvent-contaminated site is ineligible to receive a tax credit under s. 199.1055 or s. 220.1845 for costs incurred by the tax credit applicant ~~taxpayer~~ in conjunction with the rehabilitation of that site during the same time period that state-administered site rehabilitation was underway.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 403.087, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.087 Permits; general issuance; denial; revocation; prohibition; penalty.—

(6)(a) The department shall require a processing fee in an amount sufficient, to the greatest extent possible, to cover the costs of reviewing and acting upon any application for a permit or request for site-specific alternative criteria or for an exemption from water quality criteria and to cover the costs of surveillance and other field services and related support activities associated with any permit or plan approval issued pursuant to this chapter. However, when an application is received without the required fee, the department shall acknowledge receipt of the application and shall immediately return the unprocessed application to the applicant and shall take no further action until the application is received with the appropriate fee. The department shall adopt a schedule of fees by rule, subject to the following limitations:

1. The fee for any of the following may not exceed $32,500:

a. Hazardous waste, construction permit.

b. Hazardous waste, operation permit.

c. Hazardous waste, postclosure permit, or clean closure plan approval.

d. Hazardous waste, corrective action permit.

2. The permit fee for a Class I injection well construction permit may not exceed $12,500.

3. The permit fee for any of the following permits may not exceed $10,000:

a. Solid waste, construction permit.

b. Solid waste, operation permit.

c. Class I injection well, operation permit.

4. The permit fee for any of the following permits may not exceed $7,500:

a. Air pollution, construction permit.

b. Solid waste, closure permit.

c. Drinking water, construction or operation permit.

d. Domestic waste residuals, construction or operation permit.

e. Industrial waste, operation permit.

f. Industrial waste, construction permit.

5. The permit fee for any of the following permits may not exceed $5,000:

a. Domestic waste, operation permit.

b. Domestic waste, construction permit.

6. The permit fee for any of the following permits may not exceed $4,000:

a. Wetlands resource management—(dredge and fill), standard form permit.

b. Hazardous waste, research and development permit.

c. Air pollution, operation permit, for sources not subject to s. 403.0872.

d. Class III injection well, construction, operation, or abandonment permits.

7. The permit fee for Class V injection wells, construction, operation, and abandonment permits may not exceed $750.

8. The permit fee for any of the following permits may not exceed $500:

a. Domestic waste, collection system permits.

b. Wetlands resource management—(dredge and fill and mangrove alterations), short permit form.

c. Drinking water, distribution system permit.

9. The permit fee for stormwater operation permits may not exceed $100.

10. The general permit fees for permits that require certification by a registered professional engineer or professional geologist may not exceed $500. The general permit fee for other permit types may not exceed $100.

11. The fee for a permit issued pursuant to s. 403.816 is $5,000, and the fee for any modification of such permit requested by the applicant is $1,000.

12. The regulatory program and surveillance fees for facilities permitted pursuant to s. 403.088 or s. 403.0885, or for facilities permitted pursuant to s. 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. ss. 1251 et seq., and for which the department has been granted administrative authority, shall be limited as follows:

a. The fees for domestic wastewater facilities shall not exceed $7,500 annually. The department shall establish a sliding scale of fees based on the permitted capacity and shall ensure smaller domestic waste dischargers do not bear an inordinate share of costs of the program.

b. The annual fees for industrial waste facilities shall not exceed $11,500. The department shall establish a sliding scale of fees based upon the volume, concentration, or nature of the industrial waste discharge and shall ensure smaller industrial waste dischargers do not bear an inordinate share of costs of the program.

c. The department may establish a fee, not to exceed the amounts in subparagraphs 4. and 5., to cover additional costs of review required for permit modification or construction engineering plans.

Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 403.722, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.722 Permits; hazardous waste disposal, storage, and treatment facilities.—

(1) Each person who intends to construct, modify, operate, or close a hazardous waste disposal, storage, or treatment facility shall obtain a construction permit, operation permit, postclosure permit, ~~or~~ clean closure plan approval, or corrective action permit from the department prior to constructing, modifying, operating, or closing the facility. By rule, the department may provide for the issuance of a single permit instead of any two or more hazardous waste facility permits.

Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2003.