



2023 Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust Fund Public Meeting

January 18, 2024

6:30 pm

Webex Virtual Meeting

1. Introduction, Illinois EPA
2. Annual Report Overview
3. Question and Answer

Drycleaner Environmental Trust Fund 2023 Report

Executive Summary

Section 25(h) of the Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust (“DERT”) Fund Act (415 ILCS 135) directs the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to prepare a report as deemed necessary after 2022 reflecting the status of the DERT Fund (“the Fund”), identifying administrative expenses incurred by the Agency in its administration of the Fund, identifying amounts from the Fund that have been applied toward remedial action and insurance claims under the Act, and identify drycleaning facilities within the state that are eligible for reimbursement from the Fund that have completed remedial action.

Background

On August 19, 1997, P.A. 90-502 was signed into law creating the Fund and establishing the Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust Fund Council. The Council was responsible for administering the Fund, which included reviewing and authorizing reimbursement to claimants for eligible expenses related to remedial activities undertaken at current and former drycleaning sites. The Council was also responsible for licensing drycleaning facilities and overseeing environmental insurance coverage and reimbursement from the Fund.

On August 16, 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed P.A. 101-400 into law, which amended the DERT Fund Act. The primary effect of the public act was to transition administration of the Fund and compliance with the DERT Fund Act from the Council to the Illinois EPA and also authorized the Pollution Control Board to adopt rules governing the administration of the authorities shifted to the Illinois EPA.

With the abolishment of the Council, the former Council’s rules became, by statute, Board rules. On February 9, 2021, the Illinois EPA filed a rulemaking proposal with the Illinois Pollution Control Board similar to the existing rules and also reflect the current administration of the Fund by the Illinois EPA.

These rules were adopted as 35 Illinois Administrative Code 1501 and became effective January 17, 2023. In addition, the DERT Fund Act, 415 ILCS 135 is still used in the administration of the program. The Illinois EPA’s program administrator changed on May 16, 2023.

DERT Fund Overview

As of July 1, 2023, the Fund had a balance of \$1,423,690.55. During State Fiscal Year 2023, the Fund generated \$1,318,868.61 of revenue. Two categories of costs are paid from the Fund: administrative expenses for the Illinois EPA’s oversight of the Fund and reimbursement of remediation claims.¹ Section 10(f) of the DERT Fund Act limits the Illinois EPA’s administrative expenses to no more than \$600,000 per State Fiscal Year. During State Fiscal

Year 2023, the Illinois EPA incurred \$327,781.50 of such expenses. This included salaries and fringe benefits of employees whose responsibilities included reviewing license applications, remedial action applications, requests for payment, and other submissions related to the Illinois EPA’s administration of the Fund. In addition, the Illinois EPA approved and paid \$762,709.90 of remedial action claims from the DERT Fund in State Fiscal Year 2023. In total, the Illinois EPA approved 40 claims for 25 sites.

The latest count of licensed drycleaners for 2023 is 500 facilities. The DERT Fund issued 153 insurance policies with policy dates starting July 1, 2022 up to June 1, 2023. Fifty-one of the 80 drycleaner sites currently enrolled in the Site Remediation Program are not currently actively operating or licensed as a drycleaner. Licensed operators enrolled in the Site Remediation Program must maintain continuous insurance to remain eligible for reimbursement. Inactive drycleaning sites enrolled in the Site Remediation Program must pay an annual \$3,000 administrative assessment due February 1 of each year to remain eligible for reimbursement. Verification of deductible payment(s) is required for all reimbursements moving forward.

Sites Eligible for Reimbursement¹

During the transition of the administration of the Fund, the Illinois EPA received records reflecting outstanding approved remedial actions from the Council. The Illinois EPA reviewed those records to confirm the roster of sites that previously submitted approvable budgets and work plans for cleanup work necessary to address drycleaning-related releases; in addition, the Illinois EPA reviewed current program records to update the list of sites in the previous DERT Fund Reports. Approximately 510 active or former drycleaning facilities have been issued a No Further Remediation letter from the Illinois EPA’s Site Remediation Program.

As of November 30, 2023, there are 27 drycleaning facilities that are currently eligible for reimbursement from the DERT Fund for approved remedial actions activities. Those sites are:

Drycleaning Facility	Facility Address	City	Zip
Aquamarine Cleaners	14723 Central Ave	Oak Forest	IL 60452
Artistic Cleaners	1509 Washington St	Waukegan	IL 60085
Barry Regent Cleaners Inc	3000 N Broadway	Chicago	IL 60657
Clean Clean Dry Cleaners	6417 W Archer Ave	Chicago	IL 60638
Delaney Heald Cleaners	10555 S Western Ave	Chicago	IL 60643
Deluxe Cleaners	102 S Batavia Ave	Batavia	IL 60510
Dial Cleaners	2827 Dundee Rd	Northbrook	IL 60062
Eagle Cleaners	8341 S Pulaski Rd	Chicago	IL 60652
Elite Cleaners	165 E 147 th St	Harvey	IL 60426
Imperial Cleaners	1041 S Roselle Rd	Schaumburg	IL 60193
KustomKleen (Cleantopia)	1008 N Wilke Rd	Arlington Heights	IL 60004
Lapels Dry Cleaning	819 Ridge Rd	Wilmette	IL 60091

¹ For the purposes of this report, “remediation claims” covers both remedial action claims for releases that occurred earlier than 2006 and insurance claims for all subsequent releases.

L-Nor Cleaners	662 E Northwest Highway	Mt Prospect	IL 60056
Manteno Laundry	388 N Oak	Manteno	IL 60950
Modernway Cleaners	14642 S Pulaski	Midlothian	IL 60445
Monitor Cleaners	4601 North Clark Street	Chicago	IL 60640
New Poly Cleaners	600 Madison St	Oak Park	IL 60302
New Spring Cleaners	1142 Hill Grove Ave	Western Springs	IL 60558
North Suburban Cleaners	7620 Dempster St	Morton Grove	IL 96053
Oakton Cleaners	4100 Oakton St	Skokie	IL 60076
Olympic Cleaners	6729 W Ogden Ave	Berwyn	IL 60402
Rainbow Cleaners	482 W Half Day Rd	Buffalo Grove	IL 60089
Schultz & Odhners Inc	1152 Central Ave	Wilmette	IL 60091
Spring Cleaner	1142 Hill Grove Ave	Western Springs	IL 60558
The Cleaners	751 West Dundee Road	Wheeling	IL 60090
Toms Cleaners Inc	2130 Plum Grove	Rolling Meadows	IL 60008
Top Quality Dry Cleaners	5904 Lincoln Ave	Morton Grove	IL 60053

It should be noted that facilities not found on this list may become eligible by making payments towards overdue license fees, insurance premiums, or administrative assessments. Drycleaners that have not submitted a claim may also become eligible upon enrolling in the Site Remediation Program.

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