



## Seminar to address contamination

By JESSICA KERMAN

— In an effort to clean up contaminated land in Anderson, the city is sponsoring a program to help property owners find money to decontaminate land.

The program will take place Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the trading room in the public safety building.

Mayor Kevin Smith said the program would give business owners at least one idea of how to approach contamination issues.

For example, he said, if a property was a gas station 30 years ago, the owner would want to remove tanks from underground.

“It’s expensive to remove tanks,” Smith said. “And if the tanks leak, then it must be cleaned up.”

Michael Widing, director of building and planning for the Department of Municipal Development, Katie Goar, director of community development and long range planning and Chad Pigg, acting director of community development and long range planning, planned the seminar.

Pigg said the city invited an environmental consulting firm and a law firm to present to the business owners. He would not disclose the names of the firms because, he said, he did not want to promote the specific companies.

“If they want to use these companies, they can,” he said.

Forty invitations were sent to land owners in the area, but anybody who is interested can come to the seminar.

Pigg said the point of the program is to provide information about options to finance cleanup operations.

“If there’s funding out there to help clean up these properties, we’ll try to put the owners in touch with these people take sure that can happen,” he said.

Smith said the seminar is just part of his initiatives to encourage more private investment in Anderson.

“We are creating a climate that solicits greater economic development,” Smith said. “The government can’t afford to do this on its own.”

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