



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin were selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The tribe, which was recognized by the federal government in 1934, has eight tribal communities located in Burnett, Barron, and Polk Counties in northwestern Wisconsin. Approximately 2,500 persons reside in these communities. Most of the targeted tribal communities are located in the Upper St. Croix River Watershed, which has been rated an "Outstanding Resource Water" by EPA. Several streams in the watershed are Class I or III trout streams. The St. Croix Chippewa Indian culture greatly values water resources; therefore, most communities are located on or near water



Assessment Grant

New
2004

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to inventory and assess abandoned dumping sites on tribal lands, including Phase I and Phase II assessments at selected sites. Grant funds will also be used to conduct community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

715-349-2195

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

bodies. Local tourism also depends upon the St. Croix River. The tribe's unemployment rate is 27 percent. Numerous unlined, abandoned dump sites are located on tribal land. Many of these are located in or next to wetlands and other water bodies. It is feared that some of these dumps may be leaching hazardous chemicals, toxins, and other pollutants into surface and groundwater. Hazardous contaminants entering into water bodies and groundwater would pose a threat to the health and welfare of tribe members as well as negatively impact the tourism industries of the tribe and surrounding non-tribal communities. The tribe will use the results of the site assessments to target sites for removal and remedial activities as appropriate.