



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA*

### 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, President George W. Bush 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 City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The city-parish is a consolidated government that includes incorporated and unincorporated Baton Rouge. The focus of this project is in the city (population 227,818). As development moved to outlying areas, the old neighborhoods within the city limits experienced significant economic decline, resulting in an increase of abandoned commercial and industrial areas. These neighborhoods have the greatest concentration of minorities, and the highest poverty and unemployment levels in the parish. In South Baton



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments, conduct community outreach, and initiate cleanup planning for sites with potential petroleum contamination in the South Baton Rouge neighborhood. A regulatory database search revealed that there are at least 28 properties with underground storage tanks.

### 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team

214-665-6736

[http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/  
sfbfhome.htm](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm)

Grant Recipient: City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA  
225-389-3144

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

Rouge, targeted for assessment, 94 percent of residents are African-American, 43 percent are high school dropouts, and 23.5 percent are unemployed. Almost half of the area's residents live below the poverty level. Assessment and eventual cleanup in this neighborhood will improve public health and safety and leverage funds for rebuilding and revitalizing the Old South Baton Rouge neighborhood.