



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

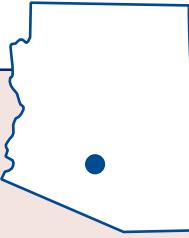
## *Gila River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ*

### 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 Gila River Indian Community was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is a federally recognized tribe and a Brownfields Showcase Community located in the Gila River Borderlands area adjacent to metropolitan Phoenix. The tribal reservation encompasses 600 square miles and has 16,000 members of the Akimel O'-odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) tribes. Sixty-five percent of GRIC households live below the poverty level. Although income from casino operations has alleviated some of the community's economic problems, unemployment at the GRIC



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the Gila River Indian Community for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to survey soil vapor levels, sample soil borings, install eight groundwater monitoring wells, and validate data characterizing the perchlorate contamination at the former Aero Dyne Corporation site. Perchlorate was detected in both soil and groundwater following the removal of contaminated soil at the site, which was used to test rocket motors and solid rocket fuel.

### 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 9 Brownfields Team

415-972-3188

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: Gila River Indian Community,  
AZ  
520-562-2234, ext. 225

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

remains six times higher than the state average. More than 50 percent of tribal adults are diabetic and the incidence of the disease among the young has been increasing rapidly. The target property, the former Aero Dyne Corporation site, is in one of the GRIC's industrial parks. It is potentially contaminated by wastes such as perchlorate, a chemical that interrupts normal thyroid function and poses serious threats to children and pregnant women who may consume perchlorate-contaminated water. Assessment and cleanup of the

site will help protect residents from the potential health risks posed by the contamination and remove a barrier to redevelopment that will increase much-needed economic opportunities for the Gila River Indian Community.